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Palestinian Affairs

The delegation to peace talks with Israel suspended its travel to Washington pending "a political decision...by the PLO," spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told a media briefing reported by Jerusalem radio's Arabic service. The PLO's Faruq Qaddumi left Amman for talks in Damascus, according to Paris Radio Monte Carlo, which also broadcast an interview with Yasir 'Arafat.

Jordan

The delegation to peace talks will leave on schedule and "will not wait for the Palestinian delegation," the chief negotiator told Radio Monte Carlo.

Israel

Twelve Palestinian activists belonging to "terrorist organizations" are to be deported, according to a decision by the defense minister and reported by Jerusalem television. A settlement established to commemorate the recent killing of a settler was dismantled by the IDF, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, the Knesset passed the 107-billion shekel state budget, the radio disclosed. Shamir commented to YEDI'OT AHARONOT on the retiring Air Force chief's controversial remarks, which were published in the Air Force journal BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR. The just-appointed chief of military radio was forced to resign over an interview he granted to HADASHOT, that paper reported; Jerusalem television named his replacement. The foreign minister said efforts are being made to establish a diplomatic presence in several Commonwealth states, including Muslim ones, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Lebanon

The minister of state for air transport visited Beirut airport, where he commented on an "unjustified" State Department announcement regarding security there, Beirut radio reported.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi's CBS-TV interview, including his New Year message to Americans, was reported by JANA. The Amman paper AL-DUSTUR interviewed the lawyer for the Lockerbie defendants.

Algeria

A protest march against results of the recent elections drew 300,000 participants, Paris international radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Statements by King Fahd and the Finance Minstry on the passing of the state budget were transmitted by SPA.

Iraq

The prime minister attended a ceremony marking the al-Dawrah refinery's return to full production, INA reported. The oil minister's speech on the occasion was broadcast by Baghdad radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

—Iraq requested Arab League mediation for the release of Iraqi funds in foreign and Arab banks, MENA reported.

Iran

Ayatollah Khamenei's speech to military units was broadcast by Tehran radio.

Pakistan

The country denied a German magazine's report that "several thousand" tanks had been bought from Soviet garrisons, Hamburg DPA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq Seeks League Mediation on Impounded Funds

NC0201155092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the league. Following the meeting, Najm said he delivered a memorandum from the Iraqi foreign minister to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid requesting his personal intervention to lift the sufferings off the Iraqi people. He added that Iraq requests Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid to seek the lifting of the ban on releasing Iraqi funds in foreign and Arab banks. He remarked that the UN sanctions committee hat allowed the release of these funds, leaving the final decision to individual states.

Najm stressed the necessity of releasing Iraqi funds abroad so that basic medical and food needs can be met.

Najm denied that Kuwaitis are being held in Iraq. He remarked that it is not in Iraq's interest to hold any foreign citizens.

He added that some Kuwaiti nationals are residing in Iraq and that they enjoy freedom of movement and travel. He maintained that it is the Kuwaiti authorities that are denying them entry into Kuwait.

Najm said Iraq has officially requested the Arab League General Secretariat to set up an Iraqi-Kuwaiti joint committee, embracing representatives from the Arab League and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to investigate the issue of the POW's.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Suspends Travel Pending PLO Decision

JN0301113392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1104 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem on 3 January; carried within the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, will the Palestinian side participate in the bilateral negotiations next week in Washington?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian side today decided to suspend our travel to Washington. We are awaiting a political decision from the only political leadership entitled to make a decision on whether to participate or not: namely, the PLO. The PLO is currently holding a meeting to discuss these developments, as well as the issue as a whole. It will announce the appropriate decision in due course.

[Mu'addi] Members of the Palestinian side held consultations at noon today. What was the result?

['Ashrawi] It was decided to suspend travel to Washington pending the PLO's decision on the position toward the entire process.

[Mu'addi] Does this mean that the Palestinian side may not participate in the peace process?

['Ashrawi] This is part of the overall political decision. The evaluation of the peace process falls within the authority of the political Palestinian leadership. No decision was made concerning withdrawal or travel; it was decided only to suspend our travel until the appropriate decision has been made.

[Mu'addi] Has this been coordinated with Jordan?

['Ashrawi] There are now tangible and rapid moves to coordinate with Jordan and the other Arab sides. This is what is happening now.

[Mu'addi] When will the final decision on whether or not to travel to Washington be made?

['Ashrawi] We will not travel today. We are awaiting the response, which will come today or tomorrow perhaps.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

More on Delegation's Move

TA0301114392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1115 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Report by Moti Amir from Jerusalem]

[Text] The Palestinian delegation is now leaving Faysal al- Husayni's house. They have ended their consultations, which took place due to the deportation orders issued last night against 12 residents of the territories. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi walked over to waiting newsmen when she left the consultations and announced that the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will not be going to Washington until a decision is made by the PLO leadership.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] We have decided to suspend our travel plans to Washington, D.C., and we are awaiting the political decision of the Palestinian leadership of the whole Palestinian people, the PLO, and the decision should be taken some time today. They are now meeting and assessing. [end recording]

[Amir] The delegation members called on the United States and Europe to get the deportation orders revoked. Faysal al-Husayni stressed that the Palestinians view seriously the deportation of 12 Palestinians during peace negotiations.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] The issue is serious. We are not playing games. The peace move cannot go on like

this with deportations going on all the time, with Shamir's Israeli Government following this destructive line. [end recording]

Also attending the consultations at al-Husayni's home were the leaders of the delegation to negotiations in Washington: Dr. Sari Nusaybah; delegation members, such as Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Furayh Abu-Middayn; as well as Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, who is identified with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to which most of the candidates for deportation belong, and is one of the leaders of the opposition to the peace process.

Qaddumi Leaves Amman for Talks in Damascus

JN0301113992 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has left Amman for Damascus via a land route following a two-day visit to Jordan.

A responsible Palestinian source said that Qaddumi will hold talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on ways to exert international pressure on Israel to force it to cancel its decision to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

'Arafat on U.S. Dialogue, National Unity

JN0201193492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Chief Editor Rashid Fayid; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Fayid] This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Palestinian resistance movement. At the same time, differences are surfacing in the occupied territory. Meanwhile, you have called for the resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

['Arafat] First of all, there are no differences in the Palestinian territory. There are some sporadic incidents, which are absolutely insignificant. Palestinian unity is too strong and solid to be tampered with or harmed by anyone inside or outside the occupied territory. This unity has maintained the Palestinian revolution throughout the past 27 years. This unity has enabled the intifadah to continue and begin its fifth year. It is the unity of all factions, forces, groups, and individuals. It is the unity of the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied land. A mountain cannot be shaken by the wind.

[Fayid] Abu-'Ammar, clashes took place between Fatah and Hamas supporters which resulted in casualties. Is this caused by the lack of progress in the peace negotiations?

['Arafat] First of all, let us not exaggerate any isolated incident which may occur here or there. An isolated incident took place in Tulkarm, and it was over thanks to the brothers' understanding that a democratic dialogue is welcomed and that anything else is rejected by the Palestinians. As we said and continue to say, we respect the minority's opinion, and the minority should respect the majority's opinion and decision. This Palestinian democracy is the protective shield for the Palestinian march, revolution, and intifadah.

As I have already said, a mountain cannot be shaken by the wind. There are known attempts, Israeli attempts, and foreign attempts. Praise be to God, however, such attempts utterly failed to harm this democratic edifice or to shake this lofty national unity. With respect to the dialogue, at a time when America demands that the former Soviet Union and Russia now restore diplomatic relations with Israel, on the pretext that a multilateral conference will be held in Moscow in the future, or when it attempts to put pressure on the African states, China, and many other states, such as India, on the pretext that there are peace talks—if this is the basis—we have the right to call for resuming the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Or is there a double standard for dealing with the world, where people are categorized into whites and blacks, blue bloods and slaves? By God, no. When we went to the peace conference, we did not go from a position of weakness. We went because, as you remember, in 1988 we were the first to launch the Palestinian peace initiative, which was approved by our Palestine National Council and which was presented on behalf of the Palestinian people at the United Nations. [passage omitted]

[Fayid] Abu-'Ammar, you are extending your hand to the peace partisans in Israel. Is the number of supporters for peace increasing on the occasion of the Arab-Israeli talks?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that there is progress in this area. Suffice it for me to mention the Labor Party decisions. This is the first time that the Labor Party has adopted such decisions on peace. I also would like to note the change in some views of the so-called princes in the Likud Party, vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East as a whole. This is in addition to the demonstrations staged by the [words indistinct] and the Peace Now movement against those extremist racists who tried to commit their crimes in Jerusalem, and most recently in Silwan.

There is no doubt that this phenomenon is increasing; we are extending our hand to them to work together to achieve a just and comprehensive peace for our children and theirs.

[Fayid] Abu-'Ammar, do you believe that a slow peace process would affect the future of the intifadah?

['Arafat] Look, this intifadah will stay and continue. You should remember this. As the martyr of our Arab nation said, the Palestinian revolution is the noblest phenomenon in our Arab nation. Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, our Arab

nation's martyr, said: It exists to stay. And I said: It exists to stay and to triumph.

This intifadah, which is an extension of this Palestinian revolution, will continue one wave after another until a Palestinian child, flower, or cub scout raises the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem's walls, minarets, and churches. They see the day indeed as a far-off event, but we see it as quite near. [Koranic verse] [passage omitted]

[Fayid] That is right, brother 'Abu-'Ammar, but there is fear in Europe of what is called the Islamic crescent that extends from the Islamic republics to Algeria. There is an Islamic phenomenon that worries Europe.

['Arafat] Look, if this Islam calls for hatred, Europe has the right to be afraid. The real Islam, however, is the one that calls for forgiveness and coexistence. Religion is a way of dealing. In true Islam, we only have love and forgiveness. The biggest evidence on this is the 'Umarite Convention [the pledge given by Caliph 'Umar to Jerusalem's Christians regarding their freedom of worship] when 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab entered Jerusalem. The 'Umarite Convention is considered a constitution for dealing among religions. [passage omitted containing indistinct passages]

Qaddumi on U.S., Participation in Multilaterals

PM3112122091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 91 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Qaddumi Reaffirms PLO's Insistence on Complete Withdrawal and Self-Determination"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, said that there is a rift between the U.S. Administration and U.S. pressure groups over the course of the peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the Palestinian official said, is one of the people pushing the peace process forward on a course which, we could say, has so far been satisfactory to us, but some of his aides are obstructing that course.

He added that the aim of the Zionist pressure on the U.S. Administration is to force it to grant Israel credit guarantees and thus to strengthen its position. "We believe that the $10 billion that Tel Aviv is requesting from Washington is the price the United States promised Israel for a settlement and for the protection of its interests in the Middle East."

Qaddumi pointed out that the PLO insists on its objectives and its position on rejecting autonomy, which is a formula for minorities, not for a population of over 6 million. Therefore, Qaddumi said, we insist on complete withdrawal and an end to the occupation in all its forms, and we want arrangements to be made and a timetable set for withdrawal. We insist on a discussion of these issues in the bilateral negotiations with the Israeli delegation. Qaddumi added that, if there is to be a transitional period, then the United Nations should be responsible for that phase and should supervise the withdrwal and terminate the occupation in all its forms. "As we have said on many occasions, that phase should be under adequate international supervision."

The head of the PLO's Political Department stressed that "the PLO is not against the multilateral negotations, for which preparations are under way and which are to be held in late January 1992. In fact, we maintain that it is necessary for us to participate in these negotiations—but once some fundamental and tangible progress has been made in the bilaterial negotiations. [no closing quotemark as published]

Asked whether the PLO would boycott the multilateral negotiations if they are held before tangible results are achieved in the bilateral negotiations, Qaddumi said simply: "We will see about that when the time comes." Whatever decision or stance we adopt, he added, will be adopted not unilaterally but in cooperation with our brothers in the frontline states and the supporting states. He praised "the current level of coordination between the PLO and these states, especially the Arab delegations taking part in the bilateral negotiations."

On Europe's attitude toward the PLO, Qaddumi said: "Actually, Europe has ignored the PLO. Had it not been for Baker's meeting and dialogue with our brothers in Jerusalem, Europe's doors would not have been opened. The European states promised us that they would boost the peace process if we recognized the Security Council resolutions as a basis for negotiations, along with the right to self-determination, but they could do nothing. The United States robbed them of their ability to be effective and to act."

The Palestinian official welcomed contacts with the European states and welcomed the constructive efforts made by the European states on the basis of the Madrid declaration, which was based on the Venice declaration, but he added: "Europe told us that it cannot do much."

Commenting on the current developments in what was known as the Soviet Union, Qaddumi said: "In view of the new realities, we must deal with the republics that were Soviet in the past but are now independent. We are holding contacts with these countries, particularly those interested in such relations."

Reaffirms Commitment to Jihad

LD0201123292 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28-29 Dec 92 p 4

[Fathi al-Barqawi report: "Qaddumi Says: Palestinian People Committed to Weapons and Continuing Jihad To Regain National Rights"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—A high-ranking Palestinian official has said that the Middle East peace negotiations will remain deadlocked unless the United States shoulders its responsibilities as a broker.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, "Abu-al-Lutf," revealed that the flexibility which the PLO displayed in the past was at the United States' request, and wondered about the present reasons for Washington's insistence on not intervening or putting pressure on Israel, which he said does not want peace or to seek it because of the disruption in the balance of power.

However, Qaddumi described the fact that the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict have sat down at the negotiating table as something new. He expressed his belief that security and peace in the Middle East region begins and ends with the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian diplomatic chief cited the pressures that the Zionist lobby is putting on the U.S. Administration, saying that they have prompted Washington to respond to them and to present a draft resolution to reverse a previous UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. He described that step as a serious precedent in UN history, since it will lead to its marginalization and its use as a pliable tool against clear historic facts. He accused the United States of submitting to Israel and of being biased toward it, which affects its credibility as a broker.

Abu-al-Lutf expressed his belief that the Palestinians' pursuit of an unbiased U.S. position is a difficult objective, adding that the PLO has to pursue what he termed an obligatory path because of present conditions. He called on the world's peoples and the world public to recognize what he termed the tragedy of another region of the world, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Despite the genuine desire expressed by the Palestinians to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, Qaddumi stressed the commitment of the Palestinian people and their leadership to continue the jihad. He said that the present political struggle is directed not only at Israel, but also at the United States and Britain. He indicated that the Palestinians would continue to wield weapons and would not relinquish them, because these are ultimately the means for achieving peace, stability, and the recovery of national rights.

Abu-al-Lutf broached the Arab situation under present conditions, pointing out that the PLO was working to stop the Arab rift and to strengthen the ties of cooperation despite what he termed deep wounds, which he said some Arabs still regard as a means of safeguarding their security and existence, thus perpetuating disunity and division.

The Political Department head hinted that some Arab circles were putting pressure on the Palestinians to make concessions to the United States and to accept what they usually reject. He emphasized that there has been no response to these pressures and that Jerusalem would not be abandoned, no matter how severe the present political siege. Qaddumi described the present Arab situation as tragic, demanding that those whom he described as wise Arabs not perpetuate the tragedy but work to end the present Arab division and remove the barriers and obstacles preventing reunion and cohesion. He condemned "the belief of the rich among us that their money will protect them and others people's belief that their grudges and revenge against the Palestinian people will rescue rescue from future calamities."

National Salvation Front Chairman on Peace Talks

LD0101112692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Jan (KUNA)—Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, in a press statement published here today criticized the Palestinian representation at the peace negotiations by saying that not all Palestinians are representated and that this representation has been confined to the West Bank and the Gaza sector. In a statement made to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, al-Fahum described the method of representation as being a very serious matter, particularly with the advent of the third phase of the multilateral negotiations which will be held in Moscow and which will look into the questions of the refugees and water, issues that concern the entire Palestinian people and not only part of it.

He stressed the necessity for PLO nonparticipation in the next phase until after Israel halts the process of constructing settlements and recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self- determination. He pointed out that the Palestinians' participation without the fulfillment of these two conditions or by part of some of the sons of Palestine constitutes a heavy blow to the Palestinian people, their ambitions and aspirations for the return and self- determination and for the establishment of their independent state. In addition, it means the ending of the PLO and the acceptance of a self-administration which has been rejected and still is rejected by the Palestinian people.

He called for total coordination with Syria and the rest of the Arab states that have been invited to participate in this phase. He warned that the absence of Syria and the PLO would have an extreme effect on the progress of the negotiations.

Intifadah Leadership Issues Call No. 78

LD0101193292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Call number 78 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah: "The Call of the Defense of the Land"—read by announcer]

[Text] O masses of our heroic people. O people of martyrs, generosity, sacrifice, and self-sacrifice. O our people in Ramallah; al-Birah; Silwan; Janin; Hebron; Rafah; al-Nusayrat; 'Askar; and al-Jabaliyah, as well as every village, town, and camp on our Palestinian land. O you who are showing steadfastness with your bare chests to repression and settlement fascism, and who are facing up with courage to the most fierce campaigns of torture and tyranny. Here is your intifadah, O our masses, going through the fifth year of its long life with more strength, determination, and perseverence to march on the path of freedom and independence and to transform the Zionist occupation of our land to a failed project on political, security, and economic levels. Here is your intifadah, O sons of our people, revived after each stumble with a new rising mass drive which spoils the calculations of the Zionist occupier and transforms the land into a burning blaze under the feet of the occupying invaders.

O masses of our people, the interruption of bilateral talks and the Zionist settlement and military escalation which accompanied it inside the occupied territories came as a natural result of Israel's total rejection of all forms of peaceful solutions, its extreme defiance of international will, and the continuation in implementing its aggressive and expansionist policy at the expense of the legitimate rights of our people. Foremost amongst these is its right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on its national territory with Holy Jerusalem as capital.

This also showed the failure of the United States in carrying out its so-called role as neutral intermediary and fair judge. Washington is still blinded by its unveiled bias in favor of Israel. It continues to abopt a double-standard policy in dealing with the Palestinian issue, and it perseveres in hegemony to emerge alone as a new order which Washington is trying to impose by force and take further against the peoples who love justice, freedom, and peace.

O masses of our fighting people, the current phase is characterized by increasing dangers facing our Palestinian people and its national cause, a matter which requires more endeavors, caution, and serious attachment to national unity as a single way to repel dangers and rally round the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people, and to make the option of the intifadah and its escalation triumph whatever the variety of opinions and political stands.

The Unified National Leadership pledges to our masses to preserve the gains scored by the intifadah, not to forfeit them and to protect them, and to work for their escalation by all available means, until the achievement of our objectives: freedom, independence, and the hoisting of our fluttering Palestinian flag on top of the domes, minerats, and churches of holy Jerusalem. O steadfast kinsfolk, the decision by Shamir's extremist and racist government to allow settlers to take over the homes of our people in Silwan came to confirm anew the aims of the Israeli plan to swallow up Jerusalem, capital of our Palestinian state, and turn it into a Jewish city with an Arab minority. Also the frantic attacks launched by the settlers against our people in Ramallah, al-Birah, Hebron, Sa'ir, and the Post Office area in Jerusalem, came within the framework of an official Israeli policy to terrorize our unarmed people and force it to abandon its land and property by force.

The Unified National Leadership, while seeing the gravity of conditions in the occupied land and the massacres to which they will lead in the foreseeable future, warns the international community against the consequences of continuing its silence and being content with observing what is happening through the international window. The leadership urges it to intervene immediately and speedily to provide the necessary protection to the Palestinian people under occupation. It also appeals in particular to the new UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, to undertake the urgent initiative of holding a special UN General Assembly session to discuss the worsening conditions in the occupied territories and the daily massacres to which our people and its land are being subjected. Dr. Butrus Ghali is urged to take decisive and practical resolutions liable to lift the persecution and occupation from over our people and secure international protection for it.

The Unified National Leadership salutes our people in Silwan, Ramallah, al-Birah, Hebron, Sa'ir, and Rafah, for their brave confrontation of the taking over of their homes and their defense of their land and property in the face of the racist settlers who are backed by the forces of occupation. The leadership calls on them to carry out more resistance and confrontation of the flocks of settlers, pursue them, and turn their presence on our soil into a fire burning the land under their feet. While the Unified National Leadership salutes the forces of peace and democracy in Israel for their honorable stand by our people against the practices of the settlers in Silwan, it urges them to intensify their efforts to expose the racist nature of these practices and work to put an end to them, and to organize protests marches and demonstrations inside Israel. The Unified National Leadership denounces the UN General Assembly resolution that abolished its previous resolution that considered Zionism a form of racism, which the United States had help in getting issued, using the stick and carrot policy with member countries to make them vote in favor of abolishing this resolution.

The Unified National Leadership believes that the causes that warranted the issuance of this resolution still apply; and that the Zionist entity eagerly continues to practice the most hideous methods of racist oppression against our Palestinian people. The Unified National Leadership calls on the UN General Assembly, which cancelled this resolution, to work toward cancelling the racist decisions which Israel has implemented inside the Palestinian occupied territories.

The Unified National Leadership condemns the crossing out of the word "jihad" from the Dakar Islamic Conference Organization resolutions; and believes this to be a challenge against Islam, disdain against Muslim feelings and pride, and an eager continuation to pursue the U.S. plan which aims at humiliating Muslims and Arabs. The National Leadership hails the stance of the state of Palestine during the summit and its persistent rejection of this plot.

On the occasion of the first Atlantic aggression against the people of Iraq, the Unified National Leadership stresses its support for the Iraqi people; and calls for ending the unjust embargo imposed against Iraq's children and women.

The Unified Leadership emphasizes that what has happened inside the Soviet republics is an internal matter that concerns its friendly peoples, and stems from peoples' right to self-determination. The National Unified Leadership calls on the group of the independent states which signed the agreement to wind up the Soviet Union in Alma-Ata, to continue supporting the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and to play an effective role regarding efforts aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and in the world.

On the internal level the Unified National Leadership calls for the concentration of efforts to continue and escalate the intifadah and guarantee its continuation. It also calls for the reorganization and enlargement of the people's committees in all regions, from Rafah to Janin; and to reorganize the strike forces on a broader basis to confront the new policy which is being pursued by the settlers inside Palestinian land, with Shamir's official support and that of the extremist right-wing in Israel.

The National Leadership stresses its previous decision to implement the death penalty against anyone who is found to be involved in selling real estate to Jews in Jerusalem. The National Leadership has entrusted the strike forces and its security services to investigate and expose these people in preparation for implementing God's ruling and the ruling of the people against them.

The Unified National Leadership calls for the implementation of broad popular effective actions through the carrying out of mass demonstrations and marches throughout the regions of the state of Palestine as a protest against the continuation of occupation and the practices of the settlers.

The Unified National Leadership calls on our gallant merchants to reorganize their ranks to stand up to the escalating taxation campaigns which reached their peak last month. It also calls on merchants to adhere to their stand on rejecting payment of these taxes to protest the method of collecting and distributing them—a method which is contrary to international law. This law commits the occupation authorities to spend these taxes on projects and services in the areas where they are levied.

The unified national leadership calls on legal institutions in the state of Palestine to call for convening a conference of international jurists in the occupied territories as soon as possible to discuss the Israeli practices which concern the escalations of the campaigns of oppression, persecution of Palestian citizens, and the orders to open fire indiscriminately on people; step up the building of settlements and seize the homes of the citizens by force; escalate the policy of confiscation; starve the people; prolong the curfew orders; uproot trees; blow up houses; close universities and educational institutes; tighten the grip on the economy; change the Arab landmarks in occupied areas, and so many other actions to obliterate the Palestinian identity and eradicate the material and moral presence of the Palestinian people.

The Unified National Leadership salutes the Palestinian National Liberation Movement Fatah on the 27th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. It was the upsurge which sparked off a new era for the Palestinian people along the road of struggle and liberation. Inspired by this cherished occasion the Unified National Leadership is resolved to continue the struggle until our people realize their objective to freedom, independence, and the establishment of the Palestinian independent state on their national soil whose capital is Holy Jerusalem.

The Unified National Leadership calls for rejecting the intervention of the occupation authorities in the elections of the chambers of commerce whether by adding to the lists or objecting to the changing other list. It calls on all to adhere to the stand of the merchants in al-Qalqilyah and Janin who rejected this interference. It calls once again on the committee which is supervising the elections of the Arab Chamber of Commerce in Jerusalem to prepare right away for the elections and in the event of the committee continuing its procrastination, the national leadership will create a new mechanism for starting forthwith with holding these elections in accordance with the wishes of the merchants.

The Unified National Leadership congratulates the Christian brothers on the glorious Christmas and the beginning of the New Year. The Unified Leadership condemns the incidents of aggressions which took place lately against a number of national personalities and establishments in the occupied territories. It calls for refraining from such methods which are strange to the ethics and struggles of our people which only serve the Zionist occupation.

The National Leadership warns the traders about poisons [narcotics], warning against the consequences of continuing, with support and guidance from the Zionist occupation, to spread drugs amongst the sons of our people. The National Leadership warns particularly the drug selling gangs in the Christian quarter in Jerusalem. It affirms that it will stretch its hitting arms if they do not change their minds regarding the spread of these poisons which kill tens of our people's sons daily.

Activities: The National Leadership calls on the masses of our people to carry out the following actions:

1 January: A day of distinctive escalation on the 27th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement Fatah, the launch of the Palestinian revolution, as Palestinian flags will be hoisted over the roofs of houses and in public places in all parts of the state of Palestine.

2 January: A total strike as a protest against the decision of the UN General Assembly to abrogate its previous resolution considering Zionism as a form of racism. Black flags will be hoisted over roofs of houses and public places in all parts of the State of Palestine.

3, 4, and 5 January: On these days action should be particularly stepped up by carrying out acts of struggle and staging confrontations in the field against the forces of occupation and their herds of settlers.

7 January: A day of solidarity with Bir Zayt University to protest against orders to extend the period of closure of this university. [This action] comes in response to the resolution adopted by the Higher Education Council on this matter.

7, 8, 15 and 22 January: On these days all the shops will open their doors until the evening.

9 January: General strike as the glorious Intifadah enters its 49th month.

12 January: A day of solidarity with the heroic village of Silwan during which big marches must be staged to affirm the Arab character of the village and reject its desecration by the herds of settlers.

17 January: General strike on the first anniversary of the U.S.-NATO aggression against the heroic people of Iraq.

18, 19 and 20 January: Activities should be organized by the people and the masses [as heard] to demand from the United Nations to intervene to protect the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. These activities include seminars, rallies, and marches. Petitions and messages should also be sent to the international organizations.

23 and 30 January: On these two days action should be particularly stepped up to affirm the rejection of the occupation [authorities] and their practices, and to affirm that our people rally around the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative.

Signed by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah.

Algeria

300,000 Demonstrate Against Fundamentalist Gains

LD0201190592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Several hundreds of people have in fact answered the appeal of Mr. Hocine Ait Ahmed and the National Committee for Safeguarding the Republic and Democracy and Algeria. "Long live free and happy Algeria," "Save the Republic," "Let's save democracy," and "National unity" are some of the slogans chanted and written on large banners carried by the marchers—many women, youngsters, old people, and men of different ages.

All of them demonstrated in waves from 1300 to 1630 along two km of the main streets between the Gare Routiere and Martyrs Square. Many came from other provinces such as Bechar, Oran, Tlemcen, Relizane, and even from Tindouf, as some banners indicated. It was a huge march, a march which took place with peace, joy, hope, and brotherhood. According to Mr. Ait Ahmed, this demonstration is the start of a radical and progressive change for building the modern Algeria which exists but to which we should give the means to express itself.

Mr. Ait Ahmed, who spoke to the press at the Essafir Hotel, insisted that legality be respected to avoid civil war. We should trust the Constitutional Council, he said, and we should trust the president of the Republic to accomplish the democratic process. [passage omitted]

[Paris Radio France International in French at 1830 GMT on 2 January carries a live telephone report from Algiers on the demonstration. In the introduction to the report the announcer says: "There were 600,000 people in the streets, according to the organizers, but this figure could be a little exaggerated. Observers are putting the number at 300,000." "In any case," the announcer notes, "it was one of the biggest demonstrations since independence." The reporter on the scene, commenting on the number of women who participated in the demonstration, says: "One cannot say that women were in the majority, but there were an exceptionally large number of them, more than is customary in demonstrations in Algeria."]

35 Fundamentalists Arrested

LD0201204992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the second day of the new year—a year which we hope will be full of love, good, and accord, God willing. This afternoon they came out in the hundreds of thousands and passed through the main thoroughfares of the capital. They chanted the slogan "Victory for democracy and Algeria." The marchers—old and young, children, women, and men—walked from the central bus station to Martyrs Square and were all marching for a free and democratic Algeria and for an Algeria of national unity. They repeated these slogans for many hours. Here is Smain Yafsah:

[Yafsah] [Passage omitted] Thursday, 2 January 1992—Happy new year, Algeria. Happy new year for democracy. These were all slogans chanted by hundreds of thousands of people who came from various parts of the homeland in response to the appeal for a pluralist society. In an atmosphere of celebration—like a wedding—which is characteristic of major national occasions, these marchers demonstrated to assert national unity, saying it is not too late; we will work for a better tomorrow; for a tomorrow dominated by smiles; a tomorrow dominated by democracy—Algeria's gain; democracy does not belong to one party or one individual; and democracy belongs to all and is the responsibility of all.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Interior and Local Communities has announced that a group of 300 to 400 people disturbed the march staged today in the capital by the Socialist Forces Front. These people were wearing clothes and carrying slogans indicating that they were of a fundamentalist affiliation.

The security services which maintain law and order managed to put a quick end to provocations in Martyrs Square. Some 35 persons, most of whom were carrying knives, were taken into custody; they are being questioned and will be referred to the public prosecutor on charges of disturbing public order, incitement for agitation, and carrying banned weapons.

Committee Formed To Combat FIS 'Cheating'

LD0201003592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The year ended with the first round of elections, which saw the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] place well. [passage omitted] The creation of a National Committee for the Safeguarding of the Republic and Democracy [Comite National pour la Sauvegarde de la Republique et de la Democratie] is one of the reactions to this by civilian society. Why form such a committee? Mr. (Benmansour), a member, answers Ghania Cherif:

[Begin (Benmansour) recording] Our move is aimed at dismantling the machinery by which the FIS—by cheating, by using manipulation, by lying—was able to win the majority of possible votes. By using religion, the FIS cheated, employed manipulation, deception, intimidation, etc., to permit people to give it an apparent victory. [passage omitted] Our work is going to be to dismantle this machinery and make it apparent to everyone, to prevent this kind of behavior which permits the FIS, which says—and this is the most important thing for us—it is using democracy in order to destroy it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Our colleague asked another question concerning the actions of this movement:

[Begin (Benmansour) recording] The National Committee for the Safeguarding of Algeria, aware of the dangers threatening our country, calls on all Algerians to express their attachment to the development of democratic processes and republican values, to demand respect by all for constitutional legality, to denounce the irregularities which took place during the course of the first round of legislative elections, which were marked by the trickery, manipulation, and incompetence noted at the level of the polling stations; to bar the path to fundamentalism in all its forms, and to oppose the cheap selling-off of the national economy and turning it into a bazaar economy, by taking part en masse in the march which will take place on Thursday, 2 January 1992, at 1300 [1400 GMT] after meeting at the Algiers bus station. [end recording]

This committee will announce further measures over the next two days. The committee has specified that it has no ambitions for political power and that its only concern is to save republican Algeria.

FIS' Hachani Interviewed on Postelection Agenda

NC0201174792 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Dec 91 p 1

[Report by Ahmad al-Suyufi]

[Excerpts] The overwhelming victory achieved by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algeria echoed all over the world, particularly in the Arab and Islamic worlds. Reactions varied between optimism, welcome, alarm, reluctance, and rejection. [passage omitted]

In a telephone conversation after the smashing victory, Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the FIS executive bureau, said to AL-SHA'B: We believe it is unlikely that the Army will interfere in civil affairs because the Army knows that we came to power because of an overwhelming popular will. The Army would not confront the people's will. Moreover, he added, the Army knows very well that those who harbor evil for this country want to drive a wedge between the Army and the people. Therefore, we absolutely rule out the Army's interference.

Hachani added: We will respect the country's Constitution. Any change in the Constitution will be undertaken by the people and their institutions. Algeria must cooperate with all world political powers because we can never conceive of an Algeria isolated from the rest of the world, he said.

On the demand for early presidential elections, Hachani said that this demand can be waived if the front receives promises and guarantees from the president that the parliamentary authorities will not be withdrawn and that the FIS will not be prevented from implementing its electoral programs.

Speaking about freedoms, Hachani said: If we assume authority, the issue of freedom will be given top priority. The Algerian people must elect their own representatives, he said. Hachani denied that the FIS prevents women from participating in public life. He said: No tribunals will be set up. All this is (?strange) propaganda, and experience will prove the opposite.

He underlined that their demand for early elections is prompted by their eagerness to avoid carrying out change in appearance only. [passage omitted]

For her part, Mrs. Louisa Hanoun [leader of the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party] said: Chadli [Bendjedid] must be removed through early presidential elections so that he may not encroach on the gains of the Algerian people. [passage omitted]

Six Islamic Armed Movement Members Arrested

LD0101165192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 31 December 91

[Text] The command of the national gendarmerie has announced that it has put an end to the activity of a group belonging to an organization called the Islamic Armed Movement [al-Harakat al-Islamiyah al-Musallahah] in the Mascara region. Six persons who are members of the group and others involved with them were reported to be in one of the forests near Mascara and were detained on 26 December.

After being brought before the military court in Oran, they were found guilty of the charge of conspiracy and harming the internal security of the state. The command of the national gendarmerie made clear that the group had been carrying military equipment, white weapons [as heard], hunting ammunition, explosives, and quantities of gunpowder, and that it was preparing to carry out acts of violence in the Mascara region.

Egypt

Israel Said Behind Terrorism in Lebanon

NC0201134892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has said that Israel is the party primarily responsible for all terrorist activities taking place in various areas of Lebanon. The paper referred to the car bomb explosion in Beirut two days ago which killed or injured 30 people.

The paper adds in a commentary published today that Israel is the primary beneficiary of the continued tension that reigns in Lebanon and hampers all efforts to restore life to normal.

The paper affirmed that the continued Israel occupation of southern Lebanon in itself represents the greatest violation and ridicule of international law and the United Nations.

The paper adds that if Tel Aviv still is repeating its nonsensical claims about its historic rights to the West

Bank and the Gaza Strip, as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir claims, then the position toward Lebanon is not based on anything convincing or even partly convincing. Aside from that, Lebanon never was party to any war against Israel. In fact, the opposite is true; it was the victim of the illegitimate 1982 Israeli invasion, which sought the greatest amount of destruction and bloodshed. This ugly aggression went unpunished and occupation forces agents were left behind to keep the country indefinitely torn.

Libyan Seeks U.S., UK Help in Pan Am Case

NC0301111792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0739 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jan (MENA)—Counselor Ahmad al-Zawi, president of the First Civil Circuit of the Higher Court in Libya and the man in charge of investigating the crash of the Pan Am plane in Lockerbie, Scotland, has said he hopes UK and U.S. authorities, which already have carried out an investigation, will respond to his calls and will help him carry out his investigation within a legal framework, separate from any political influences, so that the truth, which all sides seek, will come out.

Al-Zawi today told MENA that all the material evidence for the case is in Scotland and that the full truth cannot be established and the investigation cannot proceed in a satisfactory way unless he has access to this evidence.

Libya has asked Britain and the United States to give it access to their investigation files, al-Zawi said. The request, he noted, which is vital to his investigation, has gone unheeded. He added that it is necessary, therefore, for Libyan investigators to be able to debrief witnesses and members of the families of the casualties, to inspect the debris of the plane and the site of the crash, and to gather other information on the case.

Al-Zawi said that he hopes that the competent authorities in both countries will cooperate with this Libyan request so that the investigation can proceed unhampered. Al-Zawi reiterated that it is normal and sensible not to allow political considerations to get in the way of the legal process.

The Libyan official noted that his country said that it would accept a neutral international legal authority's decision on the Pan Am flight. The Arab Maghreb Union, he added, has expressed its willingness to carry out an investigation in the case using its own judges.

Al-Zawi noted that Libya has made several proposals concerning that matter but that U.S. and UK authorities have agreed to none of them. The Libyan official noted that one Libyan proposal was to allow Libyan authorities access to the files of the U.S. and UK investigations into the case. Another was to arrange a meeting between himself, the UK public prosecutor, and the U.S. official involved.

Al-Zawi said he hopes that the competent U.S. and UK authorities would respond to one of these suggestions and reconsider their policy to serve the interests of all the parties involved.

Agreement Signed With Libya on Transit Goods

NC0201150392 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Dec 91 p 6

[By Faruq 'Abd-al-Mun'im from al-Sallum]

[Text] There have been many meetings for three days running between ranking officials in the Egyptian and Libyan Customs Departments for the first time to discuss agreements on customs processes, transit trade, equal deals, and freedom of travel for vehicles of all kinds and tourists between the two countries. The Egyptian side was headed by Fathi Salamah, under secretary of the Finance Ministry and head of the Customs Department, and the Libyan side by Tobruk Governor Idris 'Abd-al-Jawad, with Secretary of Economy and Customs Muhammad Abu-Jibbah attending.

The two sides agreed to accelerate the exchange of financial guarantees for transit goods coming from Libya. The Egyptian Customs Department issues a special "sending request" form, which contains a full copy of the manifest for the imports in the name of the Libyan importer, to the Egyptian port or outlet after the Libyan importer pays financial guarantees equal to the duty and sale tax. The letter will be sealed by a customs officer to car doors, and ropes will ensure that the cars are not be tampered with in transit. Libyan importers then can retrieve the guarantees they paid without any obstacles in less than an hour through their agents before they [not further specified] enter Libyan territory after it is confirmed that the seals are in order and have not been tampered with. Steps also have been taken to facilitate the transport of vehicles by setting a minimum time for waiting: five minutes for private cars, 10 for public cars, and 15 for public buses. The numerous customs checkpoints will be removed and confined to one customs outlet in al-Sallum.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview With CBS Reported

LD0201172992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Jan (JANA/AMU POOL)—The leader of the revolution addressed a message to the American people on the advent of the new year 1992. This took place during an interview which the American TV channel, CBS, had with him on 29 December 1991, during which the brother leader said:

"This interview is a blessed occasion which coincides with the advent of Christmas, the birthday of Christ, peace be upon him, who brought the message of peace, so much so that he said 'whoever strikes you on your right

cheek, turn to him also your left cheek.' He also says 'blessed are the peacemakers,' and he further said: 'Whoever gives you a piece of his coat, give him all your coat, and whoever walks a mile with you, walk two with him,' and he said 'make peace with your opponent before taking him to the judge.' He also said 'do not kill,' and I am telling you 'do not get angry because whoever gets angry and kills, he will go to hell.'

"On this occasion, we would like to convey world peace to all parties. In fact, we do not bear any grudge against the Americans as Americans, and I, personally, have a philosophy that regards America as a nation with a special race and a special descent. America is made of us all, the peoples of the earth. We have made America. Consequently, it belongs to all, and its duty toward the others is to extend help and do good by means of the progress which has been achieved on the American continent by the sons of the peoples of other continents.

"We are still making America. If our sons go to America in 10 years' time they will become Americans. We view America as belonging to us all. We have neither rancor nor hatred toward it, as one race has against another or a nation has against another. I wish that America would have the same feelings. America should feel toward the others the same feelings, and that they are part of America. The yellow race is part of America; the Arabs are part of America; Muslims, the Indians, the Hindus, the Jews, and all nationalities are part of America. This is a unique relationship between the so-called American state—a distinction unavailable in other states. The Russians, for example, are Russians, and the Arabs are Arabs, China is China, the Germans are Germans, and the Italians are Italians. To whom does America belong? It is all the other peoples, and thus we should realize this fact. Lessons from the past should be learned. We are still affected—in fact the whole world is still affected—by the Kuwait crisis. The Libyans are still suffering the bitterness of the unjust air raid on them, and thus we do not want to emerge from one problem and go into another.

"This is my wish—that we should learn from the lessons and begin a new world. We should turn over the bad Reaganistic dictionary which is full of bad habits such as the threat to use force. We should do that and open a new page which has cooperation, understanding, and a world peace free of all these things. I am optimistic about this American Administration, and also the British [Government] is understanding. It is fortunate that I respect them because they did not involve themselves in the Lockerbie problem and referred it to justice. This is what we want—that everything should go to arbitration, and I believe that we will reach understanding."

Lockerbie Defendants' Lawyer Interviewed

JN3112102391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Dec 91 pp 28,18

[By Musa Hawamidah]

[Text] Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, assistant secretary general of the Islamic popular leadership in Libya, law professor, and lawyer for the two Libyan defendants in the case of the U.S. Pan Am plane that came down over Lockerbie in 1989 now before the Libyan judiciary, has denied the charge leveled against Libya and the two Libyan citizens.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, he said that before accusing Libya, first it has to be proven that the two Libyans were involved in bombing the aircraft. It then has to be proven that they are affiliated with Libyan officials. This is the way the charge against the state should be proven. However, the United States, Britain, and France accused Libya directly without proving it.

Regarding the Western countries' allegations against the two Libyan citizens, he said: The charge was leveled against the two Libyan citizens based on the fact that they placed unclaimed luggage at Malta airport. This luggage was transferred from Malta to Frankfurt on board a Malta Air aircraft. There, it was transferred to the Pan Am airline heading for London en route to the United States. According to the charge, this luggage contained explosives which caused the downing of the aircraft.

As lawyer for the two defendants in the case before the Libyan judiciary which began to investigate the charge, al-Ghuwayl said: Malta denied that it carried any unclaimed baggage from the airport that day. It also denied that it transferred any unclaimed baggage from the Maltese plane to the Pan Am plane in Frankfurt. Al-Ghuwayl wondered how it was possible for baggage to be transferred from one aircraft to another without it being searched. This is incorrect procedure.

He added: The Libyan judiciary, under whose jurisdiction this case falls in accordance with Libyan law of 1953 (before the 1 September Revolution), which is part of the Roman laws and has its roots in French law, is legally responsible for interrogating the two Libyan citizens after they have returned home. The investigating counselor invited all those concerned, including the families of the victims, to appoint lawyers before the Libyan judiciary. He also invited the investigating judges in France, Britain, and the United states to attend and take part in the investigations. So far, we have not received any response other than an initial response from the French investigating judge in the case of the French aircraft that fell over Niger in 1989, in which there was simultaneous interest with the Lockerbie case.

Regarding the request of the United States and Britain to hand over the two Libyan citizens, he said: The Scottish attorney general, and the American jury requested their extradition. France, however, has not requested their extradition because it is unacceptable under French law and under most world laws and international agreements; for the extradition of citizens is prohibited and restricted. We will not extradite them so long as the Libyan judiciary is interrogating them.

He also said that initial interrogation revealed that the first defendant, Fuhaymah, had ended his service with the Libyan airlines in Malta several months before the incident, while the second defendant, al-Maqrahi, was charged because he was seen in the airport carrying luggage similar to that sent to Frankfurt. What is more surprising is that the second defendant did not go to the airport at all that day. The two citizens are surprised at the charges leveled against them. We will, however, continue the investigation in accordance with the Libyan law. The door is open for all those who wish to come from abroad to follow the course of the legal procedures.

Al-Ghuwayl expects the United States and Britain to present the issue before the UN Security Council next month, after Yemen and Cuba leave the Council. Resolutions will be adopted against Libya.

He added: The United States is planning an aggression against Libya. This aggression has already started by preventing any exchange clearances in U.S. dollars in any commercial transactions to which Libya is a party. This has created great confusion in commercial exchanges with companies dealing with Libya in dollars. The aggression will end with attempts of invasion and seditions.

Al-Ghuwayl noted the reasons why the United States is fighting Libya. He said: The United States has raised this accusation against Libya following the Gulf war and the destruction of the Arab nation's military capabilities in Iraq, and after the United States drowned the Arab countries in debts. It failed to create a rift or conflict between Libya and its neighbors in the Arab Maghreb, the African countries, Egypt, and other Arab countries. Libya also has a number of modern and industrial accomplishments and is the only Arab country that is not in debt. It has well-known stands toward the Palestine problem. Moreover, the United States has emerged as the primary military power rather than the primary economic power. Therefore, the Gulf war was launched to control oil. The United States is now trying to control Libya's oil to confront Europe and Japan. For all these reasons, the United States leveled its accusations against Libya

He added that Israel took advantage of this charged atmosphere in order to somewhat keep its face clean after Shamir himself was accused of being a terrorist in front of the world at the Madrid conference. Therefore, the United States had to frame an Arab country and charge it with terrorism. Libya was found to be most suitable under these circumstances although we are not only against the hijacking or bombing of airplanes, but against all terrorist acts against any person.

On the similarities between Libya's case and the Gulf war, he said: From the beginning of the Gulf crisis we were eager to remove any ambiguity and we demanded that Iraq should withdraw. We are certain that the United States intends to strike at the Iraqi military power to remove the ambiguity in our case. [sentence as published] The aggression and the objective are one, but the pretext is different because Libya did not attack any country and did not commit the crime attributed to it. We have undertaken the legal measures necessary in such cases.

Regarding the Arab and Islamic countries' response to Libyan efforts in this case, al-Ghuwayl said: We have noticed an understanding of and appreciation for the Libyan position among all Arab and Islamic countries.

Answering a question on the Egyptian-Libyan relations despite the differences in their positions on the peace issue, he said: Libya is eager to establish unionist relationships with all Arab governments and we tried to avoid criticizing any Arab country in order to avoid creating a situation which might influence people in the two countries. However, we declared our position and others should also declare theirs.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on 'Rapprochement' With Iran

AB0101192592 Paris AFP in French 2202 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (AFP)—On 30 December General 'Umar al-Bashir, head of the ruling military in Sudan, said that the rapprochement between his country and Iran "was scaring the West and creating concern for him."

In an interview with the official Sudanese news agency SUNA, Gen. al-Bashir said the "West was aware that the rapprochement between Muslims will lead to the creation of a superpower which could defy Western civilization."

He said that the "attacks against the recent visit of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani were part of the Western campaign... which all of us Muslims must face."

Evoking the results of the first round which led to the clear victory of the Algerian Islamic Front (FIS), the head of the junta pointed out that the "Islamic option is the choice of people when they express themselves freely."

Moreover, he added that as for the situation in southern Sudan, "a peaceful solution could always be contemplated by the Sudanese Government." He also said that the division within the general movement of John Garang (the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA) had delayed the peace negotiations held in Abuja under the sponsorship of President Ibrahim Babangida, chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

Mutiny Reported at Popular Defense Forces Camp

PM3112125091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Dec 91 p 1

[Uthman Mirghani report: "Mutiny at Popular Defense Camp South of Khartoum"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Sudanese sources have revealed the occurrence of a mutiny in a camp belonging to the Popular Defense Forces south of Khartoum, the first of its kind among these militias, which were formed early in 1990. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the mutiny occurred at al-Qutaynah camp, some 75 km south of Khartoum, and which is considered a major training camp for the Popular Defense Forces.

The sources added that a minor incident sparked off the mutiny. This happened when a student recruit suffered a heavy beating following an argument with an instructor. This angered the other recruits and caused them to stage a demonstration inside the camp, then storm the gates and head for their homes.

People arriving from Khartoum said that large numbers of recruits—some estimated their number at about 1,600—seized the opportunity to leave the camp and return to their family homes.

They added that the security forces arrested about 1,300 recruits and returned them to the al-Qutaynah camp. It is worth mentioning that the Sudanese authorities now require all students admitted to universities and higher institutes to spend a military training period in popular defense camps before allowing them to attend universities. [passage omitted]

Ethiopian Prime Minister Arrives for Talks

Attends Banquet Hosted by al-Bashir

EA2312213091 Addis Ababa ENA in English 1505 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Dec (ENA)—His Excellency Lieutenant 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council of the Republic of Sudan, stated here yesterday that politicians who set out to undermine the unity of the peoples of Ethiopia and the Sudan will always be doomed to failure. President al-Bashir made the remark at a dinner banquet which he hosted in honour of the visiting high-level Ethiopian delegation led by Prime Minister Tamirat Layne.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that the ties of good-neighbourliness and consanguinity between the peoples of the two countries were too strong to be restrained in the sphere of politics. He availed himself of the opportunity to appreciate the accomplishments made by the Ethiopian peoples following the dismantling of the brutal system and expressed gratitude to the transitional government for the constructive steps it is taking to promote its foreign policy on the basis of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the peaceful resolution of all kinds of disputes and misunderstandings.

President al-Bashir expressed confidence that the ongoing Ethio-Sudanese joint ministerial committee meeting will result in a greater degree of cooperation in the political, economic, and social fields. He stressed that the two countries must coordinate their efforts and play an active role in ensuring lasting peace and expediting socio-economic development in the sub-region.

Ato [Mr.] Tamirat Layne said on his part that in their fight against external aggression and internal repression in the past, the Ethiopian people had never lacked the support of the fraternal people of the Sudan. The prime minister stated that the people of the Sudan have effectively discharged their humanitarian responsibility in hosting Ethiopian nationals who fled their homesteads to avoid death and persecution by the Dergue regime.

Recalling the attempts of the ousted government to put the blame for the popular uprising on the misrule of neighbouring countries, Prime Minister Tamirat noted that the discredited regime had left no stone unturned to create enmities between the peoples of the two countries and had even taken steps which threatened the security and stability of the sub-region.

Referring to the impact of the recent political change in Ethiopia on its foreign policy, Prime Minister Tamirat said that, as stated in the national charter for the transition period, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, peace, friendship, and cooperation were the major principles which give share [as received] to Ethiopia's ties with other countries.

In this connection he said that the transitional government has launched efforts to adjust the country's foreign policy to the new political thinking and said that the current visit by the top-level government delegation to the Sudan was part of such initiative.

Ato Tamirat pledged that the transitional government will contribute its share to enhance Ethio-Sudanese friendship and cooperation.

Sudanese and Ethiopian delegates have meanwhile continued their deliberations on political, economic, and social cooperation between the two countries and a series of protocol agreements are expected to be signed later today.

Calls Talks 'Successful'

EA2512100091 Addis Ababa ENA in English 1410 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 24th December (ENA)—Prime Minister Tamirat Layne said here yesterday that the successful conclusion of the Ethio-[Sudanese] joint ministerial committee meeting in Khartoum from 19th to 23rd December 1991 was a milestone in the implementation

of the policy of the [Ethiopian] transitional government on promoting friendly relations with its neighbouring countries and peoples. Prime Minister Tamirat made the remark during a press conference he gave following the conclusion of the joint meeting, which involved high-ranking officials of the two governments. Speaking on the outcome of the meeting, Ato Tamirat stated that a wide range of cooperative endeavour with the government and people of the Sudan have been agreed upon to deepen and strengthen the historical all-round ties of the peoples of the two countries for the realisation of common aspirations and the promotion of interests. Ato Tamirat noted that promoting friendship and cooperation with neighbouring countries and peoples constitutes a major component of the principles enshrined in the charter adopted by the conference on peace and democracy. In this connection, he said that significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the principles of the charter on removing the causes of conflict and civil war and on consolidating democracy as the key factor to guarantee the permanence of peace and stability in Ethiopia.

On political developments in the country, he told the journalists that acceptance of the right to self-determination of nations, nationalities and peoples, respect for human and democratic rights of all the citizens, and accommodation of various views as well as interests have guided the establishment of political institutions and political, social and economic activities in Ethiopia. Recalling the recent proclamation for the establishment of regional administrative bodies, Prime Minister Tamirat pointed out that the new structure enables the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia to manage their own affairs in the fields of local security, regional economic, social and cultural development.

Ato Tamirat also said that the right to engage in peaceable assembly, to organise political groups and engage in political activity, the free expression of opinions and all other attributes of democracy are respected in today's Ethiopia.

As regards the satisfaction of economic and social needs of the Ethiopian people, he stated that the rehabilitation programmes and the reconstruction of the economy damaged by the civil war and the disastrous policies of the defunct regime were top priorities for the transitional government. In this connection he noted that a new economic policy has been adopted with emphasis on rehabilitation and reconstruction, the opening up of opportunities to the productive potentialities of the people and the dominant role of the private enterprise in the economy.

Besides domestic resources and fortitude, which are the principal sources on which development strategies will depend, international institutions, donor governments and investors can play a contributing role to promote sustainable development in Ethiopia, Ato Tamirat stated.

On Ethiopia's foreign relations, Prime Minister Tamirat said that the transitional government is vigorously pursuing the policy of promoting friendly relations with neighbouring countries. In this connection he recalled the wide-ranging talks between President Meles Zenawi and the heads of state of the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Djibouti. Prime Minister Tamirat said that the Ethiopian side will continue the exchange of high-level visits aimed at cementing friendly relations with its neighbours and promoting peace in the sub-region. Prime Minister Tamirat Layne returned here [as received] this morning at the head of a high-level delegation.

Agreements Aid Trade, Exchanges

EA2512121091 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The Ethiopian delegation which took part in the Ethiopian-Sudanese joint ministerial meeting headed by Ethiopian Prime Minister Tamirat Layne returned to Addis Ababa this afternoon. While in Khartoum, the delegation led by Prime Minister Tamirat Layne agreed on cooperation in several fields. Among the issues covered by the joint communique, which was signed on 24 December by the joint ministerial meeting, is the convening of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development Council in a bid to solve the problems in the Horn of Africa. [passage omitted]

In addition to cooperation on air and road transportation, a protocol agreement was signed on enhancing trade exchanges. It was also agreed jointly to preserve and care for the Nile River. They also gave authority to those involved in building joint hydroelectric power stations. In the cultural sector, an agreement was reached on youth exchange and scholarship programs to enhance educational and sports activities.

The new relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, which have been revived afresh after 17 years of difficulties, have meant that visa requirements have been abolished along the common borders to facilitate trade and the easy movement of citizens. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued

EA2512102291 Addis Ababa ENA in English 1417 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 24th December (ENA)—The five-day Ethio-Sudanese joint ministerial committee meeting ended here yesterday after issuing a joint communique and signing a number of agreements and protocols aimed at reinforcing and expanding cooperation between the two countries.

The Ethiopian delegation to the meeting was headed by Ato Tamirat Layne, prime minister, and that of the Sudanese by Maj-Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice-president of the National Salvation RCC [Revolution Command Council] and deputy prime minister. During the meeting, the two parties held comprehensive

and extensive talks on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest to the peoples of the two countries. The talks between the two parties were held in a spirit of friendship, mutual trust and understanding, reflecting the longstanding friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries, according to the joint communique. The communique said that the two sides were in complete agreement on the paramount importance of convening the joint ministerial consultative meeting and its subsidiary organs on a regular basis. During the meeting, the two sides expressed their conviction that the promotion of exemplary friendly relations between Ethiopia and the Republic of the Sudan would also contribute its share to the promotion of peace and stability in the sub-region as well as to the strengthening of international peace and stability. The Ethiopian and Sudanese delegations to the meeting and other Ethiopian and Sudanese nationals yesterday watched a cultural performance staged by artistic troupes from both countries at the friendship hall.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

AB2412212291 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Dec 24 (AFP)—Sudan and Ethiopia have signed 12 cooperation agreements including a security pact and deals on agriculture, energy and mineral resources, officials said here Tuesday [24 December].

The accords were signed late Monday after four days of talks in a joint Sudan-Ethiopian commission chaired by Ethiopian Prime Minister Tamirat Layne and the deputy p.esident of Sudan's junta, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

Salih said both sides also sought to coordinate their foreign policies, with a view eventually to abolishing cross-border trade and travel restrictions, and to share expertise in fields such as education. The security pact was not a defense accord, Tamirat said, but the aim was to "seek to establish stability and ... to settle Horn of Africa conflicts by peaceful means." The Addis Ababa government "will not allow foreign armed opposition movements to operate on Ethiopian territory," he pledged, making specific reference to backing given south Sudanese rebels by the former regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam.

"Today's Ethiopia prefers peace and stability and has no particular relations" with John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), he added. The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 for a secular Sudan. [passage omitted]

Ethiopian Refugees To Be Repatriated

EA2512102091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Wad Madani, 24th December (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government and the Ethiopian interim government agreed on transportation of 250,000 Ethiopian refugees back to Ethiopia in the next year, said the refugees state minister, Brig (Retd) 'Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim. Sirr al-Khatim, [in] a press statement to SUNA, said that viewpoints were identical on the refugees' question which was tackled during the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian meetings which were held recently in Khartoum. He praised the mutual understanding that dominated these talks. It is to be recalled that Sirr al-Khatim has accompanied the Ethiopian visiting delegation to Kenana sugar company.

Khalifah Reiterates State's Desire for Peace Talks

EA2612124091 Khartoum SUNA in English 0924 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Dec (SUNA)—Member of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of Peace and External Affairs Department, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has affirmed that Sudan is working seriously for realising peace in the country, pointing out that contacts are currently going on between the Sudanese Government for laying down solid bases for a just and comprehensive solution to the southern Sudan problem.

Col. Khalifah congratulated all Christians all over the country on the occasion of Christmas, saying that the Sudan's Government is ready to negotiate with the rebellion movement "any time and in any place."

"The rebellion movement, which violated the values of Christian and Islam, had to response to the peace call," Khalifah said. [sentence as received]

Regarding the split among the rebellion movement, Khalifah said that it's because of the downfall of Mengistu regime who supported the movement by all means, indicating that it's a conflict [that] aims at reaching power as a goal in itself.

Col. Khalifah renewed Sudan refusal to any call for separating the southern Sudan from its north, stressing that the Sudan will go ahead in any path which lead to a just and lasting peace.

SPLA Factional Leader Comments on Nairobi Talks

AB2412104091 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 23 Dec 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program, hosted by Akwe Amosu]

[Text] Last week the first round of peace talks between the two SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] factions in

Nairobi came to an end. For several months now, a breakaway faction of the southern Sudanese rebel group led by Commanders Riak Mashar and Lam Akol has been opposing the leader of the SPLA, John Garang. They want Garang to release prisoners he is holding and to democratize the movement. The conflict has had bitter consequences, with fighting between the two sides around the town of Bor early this month causing thousands of deaths and causing nearly 300,000 civilians to flee.

The talks in Nairobi focused on how to secure a ceasefire and reunite the two sides. And Lam Akol himself was leading the breakaway delegation to the talks. He is now in London, and I asked him how he felt the talks had gone.

[Begin recording] [Akol] Well, the talks could have gone better, but at least we were able to explore the areas of disagreement. We did not feel the other side was mandated enough to discuss all the issues at stake.

[Amosu] In what sense were they not mandated? I mean, what did you want them to do that they could not do?

[Akol] Well, it was clear that the things which were crucial; you know, they did not have straight answers. For example, we were talking about the political prisoners who have been in detention for political reasons for a long time—this was a main issue. Indeed, it is a human rights problem and at the same time if you are going for dialogues would have been an issue which did not need a lot of discussing, a lot of haggling as to the validity of that, but still they could not move on it. [sentence as heard]

[Amosu] But I understand that you, in fact, agreed that 40 political prisoners would be released by John Garang's side.

[Akol] Well, but how many were left, because we are not talking only about 40. There are many political prisoners. And more importantly, the people who are in the leadership of the movement like Carbino Quanying Bol, like Araton Arok, like John Colanquot, the three of them in the high command, and Martin Makuraleyu, were not released. This has no basis, has no reason to leave them behind.

[Amosu] But, did you agree to go on working on that?

[Akol] Well, we did not agree [on] working on that. I mean, it remained a suspended point up to the time we dispersed.

[Amosu] What about other issues? I mean, for example, I know you were demanding democratic elections in southern Sudan. You have been demanding agreement on secession of southern Sudan. Did you make any progress on those issues?

[Akol] Well, basically the issue of democratization in the movement is the central issue. There was movement on that. The other side conceded, and in fact there was a document we signed on the process of democratization. But again, when we came to the issue of how to bring about this democratization—and we definitely agreed there must be an interim body that will unite the two factions of the movement—then talks came and got into a deadlock. The other side insisted that their concept of election itself is not acceptable to them.

[Amosu] What exactly do you want? Within the SPLA, you want there to be some kind of a ballot for the leadership?

[Akol] Well, there are two stages. At the moment it is a fact that we are two factions in the SPLA. These factions should come together so that we form an interim leadership that will supervise a wider election inside the southern Sudan, so that we identify with the people, we mobilize them to achieve our objectives. There is no revolution which has ever been staged without the support of the people. [end recording]

Fundamentalist Ghannouchi Turns in Passport

AB3112200091 Paris AFP in French 1550 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (AFP)—Yesterday in Cairo Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, Sudanese justice minister, said that Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the (banned) Tunisian Islamic Movement, Al-Nahdah, had given back the Sudanese passport that he was holding.

The minister, who was speaking at Cairo airport during a short stopover before flying to Tunis, added that Mr. Ghannouchi gave the passport back spontaneously to the Sudanese authorities so as not to create any problem for them with the Tunisian authorities. The Sudanese official is to take part in a meeting of Arab ministers which opens in Tunis on 1 January.

He emphasized that Mr. Ghannouchi had obtained the passport following a decision by the Revolution Command Council, which considers Sudan the "home country of all Muslims and Arabs."

Furthermore, commenting on the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front in the first round of the legislative elections in Algeria, the Sudanese official said that this "demonstrated the determination of Algerian citizens to see Islamic laws applied in their country."

Oman

Budget Endorsed; Access to SDR's Nearly Doubled

JN0101145292 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has issued three royal decrees. Royal Decree No. 1/92 endorses the 1992 state budget in accordance with attached lists. Royal Decree No. 2/92 increases the sultanate's share in the IMF from 63.1 to 119.4 million units of Special Drawing Rights [SDR]; the sultanate will meet all commitments resulting from that increase in accordance with valid laws.

Royal Decree No. 3/92 transfers our ambassador in Kuwait, Hilal Ibn-Salim al-Siyabi, and appoints him ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Algeria. It also transfers Ambassador to Sudan Musallam Bin-Bakhit to the Foreign Ministry Secretariat. The decree grants Adviser Salim Bin-'Abdallah Bin-al-Nabhan Ba-'Umar the rank of ambassador and appoints him ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the State of Kuwait. Royal Decree No. 3/92 also grants Adviser Muhammad Bin-'Ali Bin-Sami al-Khusaybi the rank of ambassador and appoints him ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Japan. The decree grants Adviser Mahmud Bin-'Ali Bin-Muhammad al-Raqbah the rank of ambassador and appoints him ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Sudan.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Announces 181-Billion Riyal Budget for 1992

LD0201204792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 2 Jan (SPA)— King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the session of the Council of Ministers held today, Thursday, 2 January 1992, at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: The session of the Council of Ministers held today was devoted to the adoption of the general state budget for the new financial year as is customary in these same days every year. The beloved king spoke during the closed session about the state's financial policy in light of the new budget. He also dealt with the general trends of foreign policy. The Council discussed the rules of the general method of expenditures in all the ministries and government administrations. The custodain of the two holy mosques urged all to continue the required cooperation to implement precisely the clauses of the new budget so as to achieve the state's aspirations in connection with the citizens' comfort and to ease the carrying out of administrative services in all fields.

After this, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Salim, secretary general of the Council of Ministers, read out the draft budget memorandum and the royal decrees related to the adoption of the budget. Then the open session began with a recitation from the holy Koran. Afterward, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, made the following address to the citizens :

In the name of God, and with his help and guidance to success, I announce to the citizens the approval of the general budget of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom for the new fiscal year. In this budget we have ensured the continuation of the state's policy, which aims at giving priority to economic development while concentrating on providing public services and amenities for the brother citizens in all fields.

These include the education sector, the programs and syllabus of which we are always trying to develop through bringing in all that is useful and beneficial. In this we are working from the basic foundation, namely to safeguard fully the teachings of the Islamic faith in letter and spirit in all stages of education, notwithstanding the endeavor to raise the standard of the health service and continue to provide manpower resources and medical equipment for this service in the required manner.

The government has continued its policy of backing and consolidating its Armed Forces in a way that enables it to carry out the duty of defending the country's holy places, protect its security, and preserve its stability and prosperity, God willing. To achieve these objectives, and out of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's eagerness to meet its commitments, as is its custom, and since the total sum of the state's revenues for the new budget reached 151 billion (one hundred and fifty one thousand million) riyals [R], and to balance revenues with expenditure, the Kingdom borrowed R30 billion (thirty thousand million) to make the total sum of the new budget R181 billion (one hundred and eighty one thousand million).

This way, with God's assistance and guidance, the state expenditure for the new financial year has increased by 27 percent over last year's and the year before it. From that figure, the sum of approximately R52 billion (fifty two thousand million) in this budget will be spent on necessary projects designated for the new year, in addition to the expenditure included in the budget, despite the grave conditions which the Kingdom has confronted during the last two years and the grave financial burdens it has shouldered, a matter which forced it to borrow big sums at home and abroad to cover the cost of the operations for the liberation of sister Kuwait. In the face of the victory which was achieved thanks to God, all sacrifices and cost are insignificant. We beseech God Almighty to make us all successful in serving religion and the homeland, and in achieving all the noble and lofty objectives that are in the new budget. Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministry Issues Statement

LD0201204892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1707 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 2 Jan (SPA)—Three royal decrees have been issued today approving the state's general budget for the financial year 1412/1413 A.H. (1992). [passage omitted]

On this occasion, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy issued the following statement which throws light on the features of the new budget and its various points. It also explains the indicators of national economic growth. Here is the text of the statement:

Statement by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy on the state's general budget for the financial year 1412/1413 (1992).

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy has the pleasure to provide the following review of the new budget for the financial year 1412/1413 A.H. The first part of this statement includes a brief [summary] of expenditures during the past two years. It will be followed by a comprehensive explanation of the fundamental features of the new budget, and then by a statement of indicators and growth rates achieved by our national economy in the previous year.

First: Actual expenditure for the last two years: As is known, work in accordance with the general budget approved for the financial year 1410/1411 A.H. was extended in accordance with royal decree No. M/14 dated 3/6/1410 A.H. whose expenditure at the time was estimated at 143 billion riyals [R]. Thus it covered the following financial year 1411/1412 A.H. with the same estimated expenditure for the previous year. As to what has actually been spent during the last two financial years, this totaled R472.36 billion. The noticeable rise in spending during that period was due to additional costs required by the war to liberate sister Kuwait.

Second: The new financial year 1412-1413 A.H.: The resources that will be directed toward government spending during the new financial year amount to R181 billion. The following is a brief breakdown of the main amounts earmarked for spending in the development and service sectors:

1. The education sector: The total in the budget earmarked to this sector is R31.118 billion.

2. The health service and social development sector: The total which has been earmarked for this sector in the new budget is R12.247 billion.

3. The municipal services sector and water establishments: The total earmarked for this in the new budget is R6.296 billion.

4. The transportation and telecommunications sector: The total earmarked for this sector in the coming financial year is R8.25 billion.

5. The developing economic resources sector: The total which has been earmarked for this sector in the new budget amounts to R7.99 billion.

6. The infrastructure sector: The appropriations for this sector for the new fiscal year were R2.09 billion.

7. The military and security sectors: The appropriations for the new fiscal year were R54.27 billion.

8. Local aid earmarked for supporting various economic and social activities: R7.1 billion has been earmarked.

9. Specialized development funds: The specialized development funds—namely the Agricultural Bank, the Industrial Development Fund, the Real Estate Development Fund, and the Lending Bank—will continue to lend money in the new fiscal year in the same way as was the case in previous years. The value of the loans which the funds will provide in the new fiscal year is estimated at about R4.636 billion. It is worth mentioning that the loans made by these funds have been directly contributing to the increase in industrial, agricultural, and real estate investments and in the increase in the gross national product. They have been providing enough long-term financial cover for the various production activities interest free. These loans are repaid from the income realized from the returns of these investments.

Third: Economic indicators:

The available data indicate that the national economy is witnessing a great revival: The gross national product, excluding oil, grew by an average of 11.8 percent in 1990 and 7.2 percent in 1991, whereas it grew by only 2.7 percent in 1989.

The increase in the growth of nonoil GNP is due to government spending in the last two years and to the increase in domestic demand for products and services, as well as to growth in a number of sectors, especially the industrial sector, which is expected to register a higher growth in 1991 of around 9.1 percent, and the agrarian sector's growth of about 7 percent.

Finally, the ministry hopes that the new budget will be a means for consolidating and strengthening the bases of economic revival and contributing to the protection of the level of achievements attained by various service sectors during [previous] financial years. It hopes the new budget will guarantee the continuation of attaining the aims and the high hopes to which the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, may God protect him, and his crown prince are devoting their attention and care. God vouch for our good intentions.

Religion Aide Assails Questioning of Preachers

LD2812093191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Excerpts] His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz, president of the Departments of [Religious] Scientific Research, Fatwa, Islamic Call, and

Guidance, has affirmed that many belonging to the Science Research and Call for Good have been slandering the honor of their well-known brother callers [religious preachers] and the honor of students of science, preachers, and lecturers.

In a statement today, his eminence said that they have been carrying out these actions secretly at their gatherings and that they probably record them on tapes which are disseminated among the people. They may also be doing it openly in public lectures in the mosques. This behavior contradicts dictates of God Almighty and those of His Messenger, God's prayers and peace be upon him.

The following is the text of the statement. [passage omitted]

1. This behavior constitutes an assault on the rights of Muslims and indeed students of knowledge and preachers who have done all they can to enlighten the people, guide them, and rectify their creeds and deeds. They have organized lessons and lectures and have written useful books.

2. It aids in cracking the unity of Muslims and dispersing their ranks at a time when they are in dire need of unity and the avoidance of division, destitution, and gossip among themselves, particularly as the preachers which have experienced this detraction were of the Sunna and Jama'ah, who were renowned for their fight against novelty and farce and those advocating these pursuits, as well as their exposition of the designs and wiles of these people.

We see no advantage in this behavior except for the enemies laying in wait, the hypocrites, agnostics, and propagators of heresy and loss.

3. This behavior aids and supports the biased members of the laity and Westernized [mustaghribin] and other heretics who are known for detracting from, lying about, and instigating against the preachers in all they have written and recorded. It goes against the Islamic fraternity that those behaving in this manner should help their enemies against the seekers of knowledge, preachers, and others.

4. This behavior corrupts the hearts of the public and elite alike, spreads and propagates lies and false rumors, and leads to the spread of backbiting and the opening wide of the doors of evil before the low of heart who persist in raising suspicion, arousing sedition, and harming the faithful.

5. A great deal of what has been said is baseless, fantasies with which Satan has tempted and lured them. [passage omitted]

6. The interpretation by some ulema and seekers of knowledge of matters that are open to religious interpretation cannot be taken against them, provided they were qualified to make interpretations. If others disagree with their interpretations, they should discuss it with them properly to arrive at the right interpretation as quickly as possible and to fend off the intrigues of the devil and his agitation among them. Should this not be possible, and should one feel it necessary to expose the difference, it should be done with the best of words and kindest references, without attacks and defamation which could lead to a blurring of the correct or a diversion from it, and without attacks on the person, leveling of accusations against intentions, or a great deal of talk with no justification. [passage omitted]

I advise those brothers who have detracted from the honor of the preachers and assaulted them to repent to God Almighty; what they have written or said has corrupted the hearts of some youth, filled them with grudges and rancor, and distracted them from seeking useful knowledge and preaching for God. This has been replaced by gossip, by talk against this one and that one, and a search for what they consider to be errors by others, and they go looking for them.

I urge them to repent for what they have done, through writings or any other means, to exonerate themselves from such deeds and to remove all traces of what they have said from the minds of those who have listened to them. I urge them to address themselves to constructive acts which bring people closer to God, which are of good to the faithful, and to beware from rushing into branding others as heretics and agnostics without proof or evidence. [passage omitted]

If seekers of knowledge and advocators of truth find something problematic in the sayings of people of knowledge or others, they should go to respected ulema and ask them to explain and clarify it to them, thus removing from their hearts all hesitation and suspicion. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister on Regional Military Ties

PM0201162292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Dec 91 p 6

[Interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum by unidentified correspondents; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view the calls for setting up a joint army and a joint Gulf force, and what is the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] position on this issue?

[Al Maktum] I cannot give you the UAE's position, but I can tell you my opinion.

True, there are calls for the establishment of a joint army. But I believe that we should not rush or neglect things. If we rush things, we might do, prepare, or purchase things we do not need.

But we, the Gulf states, must determine the military provisions that suit us all and then work to unify them. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view the defense agreements with the United States and Europe? Do you seem in them a solution to the human problems, and can such a method be an alternative to the militarization of Gulf society?

[Al Maktum] I do not agree with you. In my view, each state must have an army to protect it in the same way as other states develop armaments and training. The priority is for us to rely on the arms of our sons, increase unity among ourselves, and then conclude unified, not separate, agreements.

There are in the region Arab, regional, and friendly states. And we should take into account that our presence in the region is not temporary, thus we must act within the region's conditions and factors. I think that we need our own force in order to be a helping link in the chain of closely connected links, be they Arab, Islamic, or friendly links. We must work within reality. Despite this, I do not blame others if they conclude agreements. But agreements can be Arab, regional, or with friendly states. [passage omitted]

Two Captured Americans Reportedly Released

NC0201161392 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 2 (AFP)—Two Americans held by Iraqi authorities were released Thursday and will return to Kuwait within three days, a Polish diplomat said.

"We received the men at 5 P.M. today. Everything is well," said the diplomat, who helped negotiate their release.

The men had been working in Kuwait and were captured in the demilitarized zone between the emirate and Iraq.

Al-Zubaydi Attends al-Dawrah Refinery Event

JN3112182191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi today attended celebrations to mark the results of the work done to reconstruct lubricant units and return the al-Dawrah Refinery to the full production capacity it had before the criminal 30-state aggression against Iraq.

Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti delivered a speech at the celebration. In his remarks, he underscored the role of the oil sector in rebuilding what had been destroyed by the unjust aggression through indigenious efforts that were able to accomplish eight months of work in five despite the continuation of the unjust economic blockade on Iraq. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Praises Reconstruction

JN3112193991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1545 GMT 31 Dec 91

["Recording" of a speech by Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti delivered at a celebration held at the al-Dawrah Refinery on 31 December; from the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Prime Minister, honorable ministers, respectful gathering: We welcome you who are in the sacred working field—in the State Enterprise for Oil Refinery in the Central Region—on the threshold of a new year.

Today we light a new torch in the book of construction by opening the Lubricants Refinery Unit No. 3. This unit represents the second and last basic stage of the refinery; it has the capacity to produce 70,000 tonnes of lubricants annually.

Now that this unit of the refinery is operational, the production of basic lubricants will reach 140,000 tonnes annually in addition to [words indistinct]. Thus, the al-Dawrah Refinery will return to the maximum production capacity it had prior to the unjust 30-state aggression.

This refinery is considered to be one of the first refineries in the oil sector to witness the reconstruction campaign. The first stage of reconstruction began on 1 March 1991. The first stage was completed through the convergence of efforts by cadres from the Military Industrialization Organization and the Industry and Minerals Department. The first stage was represented by the light lubricants units. From these units, the first consignments of gasoline, white petroleum, and gas oil were shipped to the local market.

The mujahidin continued their march toward reconstruction. According to the plan, work to complete reconstruction of the refinery was to begin on 1 July 1991 and end on 31 March 1992. However, the cadres of the oil sector—with direct support from the Military Industrialization Organization (?in) this State Enterprise—assumed responsibility for rebuilding what had been destroyed by the unjust aggression. Through their indigenous efforts, these cadres were able to complete eight months of work in five months. The stages of reconstruction included repairing equipment and linking this equipment to the reservoirs. Taking into consideration the fact that the blockade would continue, thus depriving workers of the option to import needed equipment, accomplishing the required work became possible thanks to good indigenous efforts. Enlightened minds created new methods that exceeded extraordinary limits to reconstruct the refinery's lubricants units. The damage to these units was estimated at between 10 and 80 percent. The level of performance at this refinery has exceeded the level that existed prior to the aggression.

Blessed be all the good men who contributed to building our dear homeland and to all their faithful efforts.

On this occasion, we, in the oil refinery, make the pledge of the mujahidin men to expedite work to raise the level of production in the service of our beloved homeland under the leadership of the mujahid President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Our slogan will always be: "Confronting the aggression and aggressiveness; reconstruction; and the jihad in all fields."

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Saddam Exchanges Greetings With World Leaders

JN3012191891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has exchanged Christmas and new year congratulations with a number of kings and presidents of friendly countries. He exchanged congratulations with Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China; Lech Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland; Ion Iliesco, president of Romania; and Mahathir bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia.

His excellency sent congratulations to the following: Philippine President Corazon Aquino; Nicaraguan President Violeta de Chamorro; Pope John Paul II of the Vatican; Malaysia's Paramount Ruler Azlan Shah; King Adunyadet Phumiphon of Thailand; Cuban President Fidel Castro; Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman; Benin President Nicephore Soglo; Indonesian President Suharto; Vietnamese President Vo Chi Cong; Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi; President Andre-Dieudonne Kolingba of the Central African Republic; Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev; President France Albert Rene of the Seychelles; Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa; President Saw Maung of Burma; and President Antonio Mascarenhas of the Cape Verde Islands.

His excellency also received congratulations from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Yemeni Presidential Council chairman; Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council; Dr. Eddie Fenech, prime minister of Malta; Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations; Edouard Saouma, director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization; and Salih Burjini, resident representative and coordinator of UN executive activity for development in Iraq.

Defense Minister Awards Medals to Officers

JN3112172191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Acting on behalf of leader President Saddam Husayn, Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, awarded medals of valor to a large number of officers in appreciation for the heroic position they had adopted and the rare courage they had demonstrated in defending Iraq's dear soil, dignity, and pride during Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah and the immortal Mother of Battles.

To mark this occasion, Koranic verses were recited and a ceremony was held. The audience stood up and recited the al-Fatihah verse for the souls of martyrs. The minister then delivered the following speech: I convey to you the leader president's greetings and congratulations as you receive these medals of valor today. I say to you: Congratulations, o you the best of men, for your heroic stand in defending the great Iraq. I see among you a large number of youths of lower rank, whose chests are decorated with medals of valor. This is evidence of the heroic, responsible position you adopted to defend the homeland against all forms of aggression.

Interior Minister al-Hasan Meets Tribal Chiefs

JN3112165691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has conveyed leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the chiefs of tribes in Baghdad. This came during the minister's meeting with the chiefs and Baghdad notables today. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan called for converging efforts to reconstruct what was destroyed by the 30-state aggression led by the United States and its allies against the great Iraq. He also called for closing ranks to confront the enemies who want to encroach on our great Iraq.

The interior minister listened to some opinions and proposals put forth by various tribal chiefs on ways to develop the services in their areas and to reinforce the state of security and tranquillity for citizens.

The interior minister gave instructions for the removal of all obstacles on the march toward achieving those splendid objectives that will serve the citizens.

The meeting was attended by the Interior Ministry's under secretary for security and a number of other officials.

Saddam Orders Tripling of Teachers Allowances

JN0101065492 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Dec 91 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that teachers' allowances be increased from the current monthly rate of 20 dinars to 70 dinars.

Following is the text of the leader president's decision:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Revolution Command Council Decision No. 427 on 26 November 1991, his excellency the president, may God preserve him, has ordered that teachers' monthly allowances be increased from the current monthly rate of 20 dinars to 70 dinars.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office, 28 December 1991 [passage omitted]

18 Kurdish Political Prisoners Released

NC0101165892 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Another batch of political prisoners arrived in al-Sulaymaniyah after the Iraqi authorities released them in accordance with an agreemment reached two months ago between the commander of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] 1st Army and Iraqi Government representatives. The PUK is holding a large number of Iraqi officers who were taken prisoner by the peshmerga forces in previous battles. The Iraqi authorities released 18 political prisoners today.

Barzani Cited on Disputes Within Kurdistan Front

PM0201161292 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Dec 91 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, in "Iraqi Kurdistan;" date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] The dominant topic of discussion in Iraqi Kurdistan is about holding elections for a national council. Will that council be the decisionmaker with regard to the Kurdish movement as a whole in Iraq, including the approval or rejection of an autonomy agreement with Baghdad?

[Barzani] Actually the proposal to hold elections in Kurdistan is mine. I presented it about two months ago to the Kurdistan Front's leadership and it was endorsed at the recent meeting. It was agreed to form a legislative committee to draw up a bill for the elections by the end of this month.

The aim is not really for the council to replace the authorities or to establish an independent administration. But there is a crisis within the Kurdistan Front—a decisionmaking crisis. The front was established under different conditions. We were engaged in guerrilla warfare. But now we face very big administrative and social problems. In order for there to be a decisionmaking center and for this center to enjoy legitimacy, we decided that elections must be held to grant legitimacy to the Kurdistan Front and to determine which party, or parties, enjoy the masses' confidence. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] It seems that there are various disagreements between you and Jalal Talabani, who shares the leadership of the Kurdistan Front with you. What is your comment?

[Barzani] First, I think that such an important issue as negotiations concerning a people's future should be dealt with very seriously.

The negotiations were not initiated by an individual decision by one party or one person. It was a collective decision. The first delegation to visit Baghdad was headed by Talabani. All the papers discussed—and many of them were implemented—were prepared through agreement and unanimity. I cannot dissociate myself from what was agreed in Baghdad or backtrack on it in Kurdistan. We informed the Iraqi Government in Baghdad itself of what our differences were. We told them clearly, we disagree with you on this and that point. I will not backtrack on what we agreed in Baghdad, even if some parties do. I believe in moral commitment. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The reason for my question is that the impression is that you are seeking to sign an agreement with Baghdad at any price. In this connection the subject of defining the autonomous region and Karkuk is also raised. You personally, and the leadership of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, are accused of being prepared to even abandon this issue. What truth is there in these accusations?

[Barzani] If these accusations were true, I would have signed an agreement with the Iraqi Government. Certainly we are not prepared to sign an agreement at any price. Indeed we are not obliged to do so. Besides, the history of my struggle does not at all allow me to embark on such a step. I believe that our people need peace and stability. I will do my utmost to bring about security and stability. As long as we are not allowed to demand more than autonomy, I will find no reason to resume the fighting. I will do my utmost to ensure that not a single bullet is fired. But that does not at all mean that I am prepared to sign an agreement at any price. In fact I want a just and honorable agreement—an agreement that meets our people's minimum demands.

The question of defining the region is the point on which we have not agreed. When the talks on this point reached the final stage and I realized the most that the government was willing to offer us, I decided that the agreement was incomplete and I could not sign it. I returned to Kurdistan to consult with the Front's parties. This point remains unresolved.

Of course, we cannot abandon a single inch of our land, but if it proves difficult to achieve evrything we want, we can agree to postpone a settlement of the contentious issues. A postponement is very different from an abandonment. Abandonment is not on the cards at all. We will only accept a postponement if a compromise is a must.

[AL-HAYAH] So can we say that the impression that there are deep disagreements within the front is erroneous?

[Barzani] I am not aware of the existence of disagreements. There are different interpretations, views, and opinions. But there is agreement on the prime issue—facilitating a peaceful solution. [passage omitted]

Iranian Opposition Cited on Arrested Diplomat

JN3012150291 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 30, INA—The Iranian opposition organization of Mujahedin-e Khalq said the Iranian diplomat arrested by the organization elements near its office in Baghdad recently on charges of attempting to assassinate Iranian resistance leader Mas'ud Rajavi is a member of the Iranian intelligence "SAVAK".

A statement by the organization said the diplomat Manoshehr Pak Athin took part in a plot on the life of Rajavi during a festival staged in south Teheran in 1980. It added that the diplomat also participated in torturing political detainees in Evin prison in 1981 and was responsible for the killing of scores of Mujahedin.

The statement pointed out that Athin was transferred from the intelligence organ to the Iranian foreign ministry for carrying out pro-regime terroristic acts in various world countries.

The Mujahedin-e Khalq statement added that under diplomatic cover, Manoshehr Athin was despatched to Iraq to take part in the planning and implementing the assassination of the Mujahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi.

It added that Athin and his colleagues used to collect information about the Iranian resistance elements in various parts including the camp of Iranian refugees in the Iraqi town of al-Ramadi and practising terrorism and intimidation of refugees. They have also started bugging the frequencies of the organization office in Baghdad.

The statement concluded by saying that a brother of Athin, also a SAVAK member was previously deported from the Philippines for involvement in terroristic acts.

Antiregime Leaflets Reportedly Distributed

NC0201181892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Over the past few days, many leaflets attacking the regime of the defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn were distributed, particularly in the rebelling governorate of Ninawa, sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] stated. They also said that (?dozens) of leaflets were distributed in the Mosul. They exposed the regime's misleading methods, called for popular revolution, assailed Saddam, and [exhorted] the individuals associated with the regime to join the people and direct their weapons at Saddam Husayn, the enemy of humanity and Iraq. A state of confusion prevails in the security apparatuses in the city [words indistinct].

Ba'ath Officials Reportedly Killed in Car Attack

NC0201171692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Excerpts] A wave of popular rejection prevailed among the [words indistinct] in al-Diwaniyah Governorate recently, in light of the escalation of heroic operations carried out by the sons of the Iraqi popular forces against the mercenaries and gangs of tyrant Saddam's regime.

[Words indistinct] Islamic revolution in Iraq said that a group of popular forces in the governorate pursued and destroyed a car carrying a number of high-ranking Ba'th Party officials on the al-Diwaniayh road in 'Afak. It affirmed that a member of the ruling Ba'th Party branch was killed and the secretary of the [words indistinct] was seriously wounded in the operation.

A group of popular forces in al-Diwaniyah Governorate also laid an ambush on the road linking al-Diwayniayh with Hamzah. The group killed a colonel in the tyrant's intelligence service, who supervised the security organs in al-Diwaniah and is known to have tortured and executed large numbers of the uprising rebels.

The sources also said that another group of popular forces attacked the control post set up by tyrant Saddam's regime on the road between al-Daghgharah and al-Shawmali, killing three of the men at the post. [passage omitted]

Popular resistance fighters recently carried out a number of operations against criminal elements that continue to commit crimes against our people in al-Dayr. The fighters laid an ambush and attacked a Landrover, killed a captain and seven accompanying soldiers, and completely destroyed the Landrover.

In another operation, resistance fighters attacked two tanks that were guarding the road linking the 3d Army Corps and the headquarters of the Volga Planes Missile Battalion. They burned one tank and disabled the other.

In another operation, a young man hurled a hand grenade at one of the regime's elements [ahad 'anasir al-nizam], killing him. The dead man had never hesitated to harm the local citizens and Army deserters.

Regime Officers Contacting SAIRI for Coup

NC0201164192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has declared that a number of Iraqi officers, including high-ranking ones, have contacted SAIRI Chairman Muhammad Baqir-al-Hakim to coordinate activities to topple the defeated tyrant.

Baqir al-Hakim visited Damascus last week and presented to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a plan that had been approved by some Arab and Islamic states to overthrow the tyrant's regime.

Iranian Opposition Issues Statement in Baghdad

JN2812185191 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Dec 91 p 4

["Text" of statement issued by the Iranian opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalq in Baghdad on 24 December]

[Text] Two terrorists sent by the Khomeyni regime were arrested by a guard a few meters from the Mojahedin-e Khalq office in Baghdad. They were handed over to the Iraqi authorities at 0900 on Monday, 23 December 1991.

As became evident later, the two terrorists, sent by the terrorist religious dictatorship, parked their white Toyota sedan, with plate number 7 DC-7, belonging to the regime's embassy in Baghdad, 40 meters from the Mojahedin office.

Since such acts, which sought only to prepare for the assassination of mujahid brother Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian resistance, have occurred dozens of times

during recent weeks, the guard at the Mojahedin office warned the two men to stop. However, they failed to heed the guard's three warnings. Instead, they tried to resist him and to escape so that they could carry out their base mission some other time. After the last warning, the guard was left with no alternative but to fire a single shot at one of them. He arrested them and handed them over to local security authorities.

Over the past few weeks, the same terrorists or their friends repeatedly reconnoitered the scene with the intention of assassinating the leader of the resistance. On Friday, 20 December 1991, for example, they came to the same place at 1645 in a Nissan Patrol with plate number 3 DC-7 belonging to the regime's embassy in Baghdad. There were three armed men in the car.

At 1100 on Saturday, 23 November 1991, the armed terrorists used a white Toyota sedan with plate number 7 DC-7—the same car used on 23 December. They were awaiting mujahid brother Mas'ud Rajavi's arrival at the office. Iraqi security and political authorities were informed of all of the details. Subsequent investigations proved that the terrorists had booked rooms in Baghdad's Novotel Hotel a week earlier. The hotel overlooks part of the Mojehedin's office. From those rooms, they had been monitoring the office continuously, day and night, using binoculars and terrorist instruments.

What is truly strange is the conduct of the terrorist diplomats who stayed at the Baghdad Novotel Hotel. They had a rented house near their embassy; therefore, there was no need for them or their families—which they used as a cover—to check into a hotel.

Moreover, when a delegation from the Khomeyni regime's intelligence visited a refugee camp in the Iraqi city of al-Ramadi looking for agents who work for it—agents who later appeared on the Iranian regime's television as members acting on behalf of the Mojahedin—the Mojahedin already knew that the regime's intelligence delegation had informed some people that it was devising a specific plan, and that it would only be a matter of weeks before Mas'ud Rajavi was assassinated.

The Mojahedin told the Iraqi authorities about this at the time. Earlier we had obtained a document from inside the regime's establishment, indicating that someone close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani had said: Now it is Rajavi's turn, because he is behind all of our problems and difficulties. As part of the same plan, the terrorists sent by the Khomeyni regime planted a high-explosive bomb at the entrance to one of the Mojahedin offices at midnight on 2 September 1991. The bomb was a magnetic explosive charge, containing 1 kg of explosives. When the bomb was detected, the local authorities were immediately notified and they defused it.

The terrorists affiliated to the Khomeyni regime's embassy in Baghdad have pursued the Mojahedin on several occasions during recent weeks and months, thus violating all diplomatic norms. The competent Iraqi authorities are well-informed about this conduct. An example of this conduct includes following the car that took mujahid 'Ali Safawi at 1110 on 24 August 1991 through al-Jumhuriyah and al-Sa'dun streets, using a Nissan Patrol bearing license plate number 15 DC-7 which belongs to the Khomeyni regime's embassy in Baghdad.

A Mercedes car with plate number 1 DC-7 from the regime's embassy in Baghdad also followed a Mojahedin member for many hours on the Baghdad-Jordan road. The operations to follow and monitor Mojahedin members continued during subsequent days through the use of other cars, including a white Oldsmobile with license plate number 4 DC-7, a Nissan Patrol with plate number 12 DC-7, a Toyota Corona with plate number 2 DC-7, and a Toyota sedan with plate number 14 DC-7. All of these cars belong to the regime's embassy in Baghdad as confirmed by their plate numbers.

However, on Tuesday, 24 December 1991—as has been reported by most news agencies—the Khomeyni regime's media organs focused their attention on the act perpetrated by the regime's terrorists in the area of Baghdad where the Mojahedin office is located. The mullahs impudently have begun to protest and to cry about the injury sustained by the terrorist diplomat whom they sent. They demanded that the guard be handed over so that they will be able to execute their terrorist plans in the future.

It is no surprise for a regime that assassinated Dr. Kazim Rajavi at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva with the hands of terrorist diplomats, or for a regime that has spared no effort to commit terroristic crimes, assassinations, and kidnapping in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Britain, Japan, Cyprus, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and Pakistan, to stir an uproar this time after finding that its plan had been foiled and to fabricate a media clamor over the incident.

While publishing these facts for the UN Security Council, the Iraqi authorities, and the international community to see, and while calling for vehement condemnation of the terrorist regime, the Mojahedin-e Khalq warns the remnants of the collapsing Khomeyni regime, who find their escape from different problems only by annihilating the Iranian resistance and liquidating its leaders, against their terrorist acts and conduct. It also warns them that the Mojahedin-e Khalq can no longer tolerate these acts.

[Signed] Mojahedin-e Khalq Office, Baghdad

[Dated] 24 December 1991

Members of 'Terrorist' Groups To Be Deported

TA0201191992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Here is a report we received just a few minutes ago. Defense Minister Moshe Arens this evening decided to deport 12 residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, who belong to the following terrorist organizations: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Fatah; the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Several of the deportees have carried out terrorist activities against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, and some of them have organized violent incidents and incited others to commit terrorist activities.

Settlers, Palestinian Leaders React

TA0301094092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Jan 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade, Roni Shaqed, and Tzvi Zinger]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Five of the Arabs slated for deportation are residents of Judaea and Samaria. Four of them are senior PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] activists who were caught in a large-scale operation against the PFLP four months ago. The fifth is a Democratic Front activist.

Seven Arabs will be deported from the Gaza Strip: three members of the PFLP, two from Fatah, and two from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. [passage omitted]

Reacting to the deportations, Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said last night: "The decision on this move came in view of the upsurge in terror attacks and murders in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the last few weeks." [passage omitted]

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza last night expressed its pleasure with the decision, as well as regret that the deportations are taking place only after a great deal of Jewish blood has been shed, and noted that it is not sure this response will do the job in the field.

Faysal al-Husayni's reaction last night was: "The deportation orders constitute a provocation against the United States and the peace process. The deportations are yet another step in the ongoing repression and collective punishment in the territories, such as the coercive collection of taxes, the establishment of settlements, and the occupation of houses in Jerusalem. The move illustrates Israel's policy of destroying the peace process."

The reaction of Riyad al-Maliki, a leading PFLP activist in the territories, last night was that Israel continues to adopt the same policy and measures. It talks about a political process on the one hand, and pursues a policy of repression and deportations on the other. [passage omitted]

IDF Removing New Settlement Near Kfar Darom

TA0201205492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Force] is now removing the mobile homes that were set up this morning by settlers from the Qatif bloc who intended to establish a new settlement to honor Doron Shorshan, who was murdered yesterday.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the settlers are resisting their evacuation.

Over the last hour, eight right-wing coalition members have met with the defense minister in an attempt to persuade him to cancel his decision to remove the settlers. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir has learned that the eight Knesset members threatened the prime minister that if Arens' decision was not canceled or postponed, they would immediately set out for the Qatif bloc to stand by the settlers, and would not help the coalition defeat the bill on direct elections for the prime minister. That bill has been under discussion for the past two hours and a long debate is still expected.

Knesset Passes 107-Billion Shekel State Budget

TA0201173092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] The 107-billion shekel state budget was endorsed a short while ago by the Knesset, after a 60-hour debate.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Budget Law was approved with the support of the 60 coalition members, while 53 members of the opposition voted against it.

Immediately after the law was passed, coalition member Aharon Abu-Hatzera asked that the debate on the draft proposal for the direct election of the prime minister be postponed until Monday because the Knesset members were exhausted after three days of continuous debate. His request is currently being discussed.

Air Force Chief on Decisionmaking, Procurement

TA3112162491 Tel Aviv BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR in Hebrew Dec 91 pp 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

[Interview with Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, retiring Air Force commander, by Merav Halperin and 'Aner Govrin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Question] You have attended cabinet meetings in which you presented the multiyear plan. At those meetings, you made some poignant observations.

[Bin-Nun] There is a serious disparity between the stands of the Air Force and those of some decisionmakers. This disparity is particularly significant in view of the rate of the Arab countries' weapons procurement and military buildup. Our plan is not made in a vacuum, out of a sheer desire to obtain extra resources; it is made with a view to the Arab threat. Most of the Arab armies' resources are invested in the air sphere, and we are therefore forced to maintain high standards to keep an edge. To achieve that, we have to make sizable investments in the Air Force's order of battle, which cannot be done with budgets that we perceive as minimal.

[Question] Both as chief of the Planning Branch and as Air Force commander, you have become intimately acquainted with the decisionmaking process of the military, political, and state echelons. How do you feel about these echelons' decisionmaking processes?

[Bin-Nun] In the State of Israel, these processes are insufficiently clear-cut and insufficiently organized. In the areas with which I am familiar, there is not enough proper government order. Too many decisions are made too late, and some are never made. One such example is the scope of resources for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] multiyear plan: This is one of the decisions that was never made. The result was that we formulated a multiyear plan without knowing what budget would be at our disposal, although a multiyear budget is the basis of a multiyear plan. This is a very serious problem with which the Army has to cope every year. The problem stems from political decisions. The IDF must have political guidance on defense concepts, but at present it receives none. The authorities must decide on the IDF's multiyear budget and multiyear plan. Without these, chaos prevails. We are familiar with the pattern. A year after a major project is launched, we are told there are no funds for it. What a waste this is. When this happens, we either stop the project midway, or we are forced to pursue projects that are no longer high on the list of priorities only because they have already been launched. This is naturally done at the expense of other, more important issues. One such case was the Lavi project.

[Question] Will the same happen to the Arrow?

[Bin-Nun] I do not wish to predict the future of the Arrow. [passage omitted]

[Question] Does the Air Force plan to purchase additional aircraft?

[Bin-Nun] We are considering the purchase of an additional squadron of Apaches, because we are very pleased with its the performance. It has all the potential, although this potential has not been fully exploited.

In the mid-1990's, we will be acquiring Blackhawks. A decision to this effect has been made, and the acquisition has been entered in our plans. I estimate that in the next decade, the Air Force will have at least one ATF [advanced tactical fighter—preceding abbreviation in English] squadron. We will need it to maintain our air supremacy.

Next year we will have to decide on the next fighter aircraft deal, which will be probably signed in 1994. Since we will not have the funds before that date, we are not about to make premature announcements. [passage omitted]

[Question] As the Air Force commander, Gen. Bin-Nun found himself in the midst of the strangest war in Israel's history—the Gulf war. [question in third person as published]

[Bin-Nun] Despite our full understanding of the circumstances, we will always remember the frustration about not being able to take action, although at that time, we took it into consideration. In the simulations we ran before the war, we trained for the possibility that if we did not have the consent of the Americans as they were operating in Iraq, we may have to exercise restraint when attacked. Only recently have we learned that the Americans had a contingency plan under which the moment we retaliated by penetrating Iraqi air space, the Americans would have left. We did not know that during the war, because the Americans kept their plan secret. They did not even permit their Air Force commanders to complete the plan lest it be leaked. [passage omitted]

In the course of the war, we conducted thousands of interception patrol missions designed to foil Iraqi aircraft attack. On several instances, our pilots were sitting in their aircraft, ready to take off on an assault mission. We had detailed plans for every contingency. We devised plans, rehearsed them, and were ready to retaliate. Two or three times in the course of the first week of the war, the time of attack was set, but the takeoff was prevented at the very last moment. We had instructions from the political echelons to be ready at a certain hour, but when the time came, they decided not to leave. We were actually about to take off.

[Question] What lessons did you learn from U.S. performance in the Gulf war?

[Bin-Nun] We did not have to learn the most important lesson: the constant need to maintain air supremacy. This war has reaffirmed this lesson. Apparently, even in the era of surface-to-air missiles and of other modern and sophisticated weapons, the side with air superiority will win the war with minimum losses. Without air superiority, the odds of survival are very slim.

The Americans achieved air superiority in the Gulf, which was not particularly difficult, because a part of that superiority was due to the rapid Iraqi collapse.

All the other lessons we learned from the Americans are minor details, information received from them: sophisticated weaponry, electronic warfare, various munitions and their impact, what works better and what works less well. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Air Force Chief's Remarks

TA2712141291 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 27 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by correspondent Dan Shilon; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Mr. Prime Minister, not only are the chances for peace flimsy, but it now seems that our security is also shaky.

[Shamir] Peace is not flimsy, and our security is not shaky.

[Shilon] Did you not hear the remarks by Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Air Force commander?

[Shamir] He said his remarks were taken out of context. I have not read everything he said. Short sections of his remarks were used, and I did not find in them anything about peace or security.

[Shilon] Avihu Bin-Nun is not the only one who has criticized the decisionmaking process on security matters. The previous Air Force commanders—Beni Peled and Mordekhay Hod—and other senior officers have also done so.

[Shamir] I find it is not easy to make decisions relating to Israel's defense problems. The problems are complex and intricate, but I do not believe that the decisions that are made are wrong. In general, we make the right decisions.

[Shilon] Those decisions, according to the charges being heard, are for the short term and do not have a long-term outlook.

[Shamir] There are decisions for the longer term, and there are decisions for the short term. That is due to the situation in which we are living. In general, our conditions do not permit long-term planning.

[Shilon] It has also been claimed that the economic and political lobbies sometimes have a decisive influence on security considerations. Have you come up against that?

[Shamir] I have never come up against such a phenomenon. I do not believe that somebody who has any control over security matters is capable of yielding to pressure from any lobby.

[Shilon] Could it be possible that as prime minister you might not know the facts? Might they be hidden from you?

[Shamir] It is difficult to hide things from me. I go around with open eyes.

[Shilon] If that is the case, is it possible that you are whitewashing the facts?

[Shamir] I have no need to do that. I do not divulge the facts because sometimes it is not a good idea; the enemies have eyes. I try to make the best decisions under the given conditions. There has always been criticism, and there is always a situation in which we praise the past and ignore present achievements.

[Shilon] Would it be correct to say the defense establishment now finds it hard to provide the people with the security given to them 20 or 30 years ago?

[Shamir] That is incorrect. We have always had security problems. There were periods in which our security problems were worse than they are now. [passage omitted]

Outgoing, Incoming Air Force Chiefs on Tasks

TA0201075392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Report by military correspondent 'Ido Baum]

[Text] Major General Avihu Bin-Nun today concludes 34 years of service in the Air Force and hands over command to Brigadier General Herzl Bodinger, who will be promoted to major general today.

An order of the day Maj. Gen. Bin-Nun issued today says: The enemy is equipping itself with weapons and technology of the best available standard, with no limitations, and absolutely stressing the air aspect. The Air Force has been given the task of preserving its qualitative edge and of sustaining the quality of its manpower and equipment with reduced resources and under serious constraints. There is no doubt in my mind, Maj. Gen. Bin-Nun says, that we can attain those goals despite the constraints. Among other incomplete missions I have left behind, there is one over which I have lost a lot of sleep: Some five years ago, we sent a fighter on a mission from which he did not return. Air Force navigator Ron Arad is held alone in captivity somewhere in Lebanon, and we have not managed to get him back till this day.

Upon entering his post, Brig. Gen Bodinger issued an order of the day in which he says: We live in times of great changes in the world order, and it is not clear how they will affect us. On the one hand, we have a direct dialogue with enemy countries, while on the other, we witness the strengthening of Islamic movements and the Arab armies equipping themselves with weapons of mass destruction. Brig. Gen. Bodinger says that the Air Force will complete its missions despite the budgetary difficulties.

IDF Radio Chief Forced To Resign Over Remarks

TA2912100891 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Dec 91 p 3

[Report by Hagar Ram and Aharon Klein]

[Excerpt] (Reserve) Brigadier General Amos Gilbo'a, the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] Radio commander, who was appointed last Sunday, announced his resignation yesterday following an interview with HADASHOT on

20 December in which he criticized workers at the radio station and the chief of staff.

In his letter of resignation, submitted to the minister of defense and the chief of staff, Gilbo'a wrote: "In view of the situation created with the publication of the interview in HADASHOT, I am hereby presenting my resignation from my post as commander of IDF Radio. I do it out of my great respect for you and out of a desire to prevent any damage to the radio station and its workers. Signed, Amos Gilbo'a."

The decision to resign was made on Friday after his meeting with the defense minister. Arens read the interview and decided that Gilbo'a could not remain in his post under any circumstances. In their meeting, Arens demanded unequivocally that Gilbo'a resign. Defense Ministry sources claim that if he had refused, the minister would have had to fire Gilbo'a. [passage omitted]

Correspondent Appointed New Chief

TA3012195291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Moshe Shlonsky, Israel Television's military affairs correspondent, has been appointed the IDF Radio commander. In a meeting with the defense minister and the chief of staff tonight, Shlonsky agreed to assume the post.

In recent years, Moshe Shlonsky has served as Israel Television's military correspondent. Before that, he was head of the foreign affairs department at the television. His colleagues wish him success.

'Every Effort' To Get Palestinians Into Room

TA0101114592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jan 92 p A7

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] Israel has proposed that the United States mediate between it and the Arab delegations to the bilateral negotiations to decide upon the venue for the talks following the current third round of talks which are to start in Washington next Tuesday, 7 January. In two days, the U.S. Administration will announce the date that the talks will begin.

Israel is thus giving up on its attempts to finalize all the issues pertaining to the negotiations in direct contacts with the Arab parties, after the Arab delegations refused to discuss moving the talks out of the United States.

The U.S. announcement, which will express satisfaction with the resumption of negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, will apparently state that since the parties failed to reach agreement on the date and venue for the next round of talks and since all the parties agreed to return to Washington, the United States, as the sponsor of the talks, has decided to announce the date and venue for the next round.

At the conclusion of the previous round of talks, approximately two weeks ago in Washington, the parties agreed to meet again and to resume contacts in the U.S. capital.

The heads of the Israeli delegation have officially informed the United States that the forthcoming round of talks will be the last one held in the United States; the Americans have delivered the message to the Arabs. There is even growing support for moving the talks to the region among the Palestinians, in order to facilitate coordination between the Palestinian delegation and PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Israel has already suggested to the United States a mechanism to choose the venue for the talks, from the fourth round onward. According to the Israeli proposal, a list of locations in the Middle East and Europe will be prepared and each party will mark its preferred locations. Any location picked by all the delegations will host the bilateral talks, immediately after the present round.

In consultations held prior to the Israeli delegation's departure for Washington, it was decided to make every effort to get the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to enter the room to preclude any U.S. intervention in the dispute surrounding Israel's refusal to accept any split between the two components of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Israel tried to contact the Jordanian Government to discuss the upcoming round of talks by sending a message through the Israeli Embassy in Washington to the Jordanian Embassy in the United States. The message alluded to the splitting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; the Jordanians, however, did not reply. [passage omitted]

Levi Briefs Cabinet on Presence in Commonwealth

TA2912154991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has been invited to Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, for a state visit. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Foreign Minister Levi made that announcement during the weekly cabinet meeting today. The Foreign Ministry intends to open representations in several republics in addition to the consulate in Kiev. Also opening in the future will be an embassy in Riga, which will represent Israel in the three Baltic republics, and a consulate in one of the Muslim republics. Israeli Ambassador to Moscow Arye Levin arranged with the Muslim republics' leaders a visit by a Foreign Ministry delegation in the coming weeks. The presidents of four Muslim republics were invited to Israel.

Ukraine Minister Arrives, Discusses Disarmament

TA2912073391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Viktor Antonov, Ukraine industry and trade minister, who until not very long ago was the USSR

defense industry minister [titles as heard], has said that a decision will probably be made at a meeting tomorrow in Minsk on disarmament, which will include the nuclear arms in the USSR. The Ukraine minister called on Israel and the United States to help turn the military industries in his country to civilian purposes to prevent the escape of minds that would be left unemployed.

Minister Antonov has come to Israel at the head of a 17-member delegation, as the guest of businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi, to sign a deal for direct flights between Israel and Ukraine. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe spoke to him:

The Ukraine military industries, which used to be the biggest arms manufacturers in the USSR, are at an almost complete standstill. Viktor Antonov, Ukraine industry and trade minister, hopes that the free republics will agree on nuclear disarmament and decide how to deal with conventional arms. In the Ukraine, meanwhile, anything related to long-range nuclear warheads is being taken away from the Army and stored in government warehouses, he said. An examination will be conducted to determine whether the uranium could be used for civilian purposes, and if not it will be buried under international supervision.

The Ukraine has already decided, in principle, to take all the nuclear and long-range arms off high alert, but we would like to have assurances that we will not be attacked by foreign elements once we disarm ourselves, he said. He added that the Ukraine had asked the United States and the UN Security Council for assistance and advice in the disarmament process. What we need, in fact, is a well-trained team to disarm the weapons using advanced technologies, which entails large expenses. He noted that the republics that have disarmed themselves were promised $400 million worth of aid.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 29 December adds: "Ukraine Industry Minister Viktor Antonov has said that some 1 million workers of the military industry in his country are currently unemployed. His government needs some $200 million to change the industry to produce civilian products, and the Americans are not hurrying to aid. I cannot be responsible for those minds, if they choose to run away, the minister told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe"]

The Ukraine industry and trade minister went on to say that no Arab or other country has so far approached Ukraine concerning nuclear arms. If in the future such an appeal is made, Ukraine will not proliferate or distribute nuclear arms. As for conventional arms, well, this is a more complex issue, the Ukraine minister said. He noted that they intend to convert the existing military industry to civilian production, reserving 20 percent of manufacturing capacity for military needs and the remainder making civilian products.

Dealers Offer Weapons Systems From USSR

TA3012115191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Dec 91 p A1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Arms dealers representing the former USSR defense industry have recently offered Israel advanced Soviet-made weapons systems, under one condition: cash payment.

The dealers are even offering Israel special weapons systems that in the past were considered secret and were provided only to elite Red Army units. Israel keeps receiving surprising offers, some of which include arms about which Israel had no information in the past.

As a matter of fact, the Russians are willing to sell practically anything with almost no confidentiality constraints. Among other things, Israel is being offered MiG-29's, advanced surface-to-air missiles, and upgraded radar systems. The prices the dealers are offering are very low when compared with similar weapons systems sold by Western arms manufacturers.

So far no deal has been signed, and it seems that the chances for such a deal are quite slim. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does not need the Soviet weapons for operational purposes. Most of the systems are inferior to those the IDF is buying from the United States and the Israeli defense industries. For example, the Air Force has no intention of setting up squadrons of Soviet planes or purchasing surface-to-air missile batteries.

Theoretically, however, Soviet arms systems could be purchased for intelligence purposes, such as studying them and developing combat doctrines to face them. Such weapons systems are currently in the hands of Arab armies, and information about their performance might help in fighting them. For example, the Syrian Air Force has MiG-29's and may obtain SA-10 surface-to-air missile batteries. The Russians are currently offering both systems to the IDF.

Some of these weapons systems, however, have already been examined by IDF experts, according to German press reports. Those systems, including MiG-29 jets, were handed over to the German Army after the reunification with East Germany, whose Army had advanced Soviet weapons systems. According to reports in the German press, confirmed by senior officials in the Bonn Defense Ministry, IDF experts examined them. The reports claim that Israeli Air Force pilots flew the MiG-29's and examined their performance.

One of the main problems in striking deals with the republics that were part of the USSR is the uncertainty surrounding their defense industries. The situation of the arms factories in the various republics is unclear; it is not clear whether there is a guiding hand and who is responsible for the various activities. It is known that there is a serious shortage of spare parts, and the manufacturing ability of the factories is unclear. Signing

procurement agreements with Russia, for example, entails a high risk because it is not at all clear that the Russian Government will be able to provide the goods.

It seems that in the next few months, the arms dealers representing the former Soviet defense industries will expand their activities and will offer their goods regardless of the type of client. One of the regions in which extensive activity is expected is the Middle East. As time goes by and the economic situation in Russia and the other republics gets worse, the prices of the weapons systems will drop and more will be offered.

Hizballah Transfers Positions From Security Zone

TA3012075191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Our correspondent Dani Levi has learned that Hizballah has begun evacuating its positions along the border of the security zone in south Lebanon and transferring them to new centers far from the zone. This development is the result of recent continuous operations undertaken by the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] against this organization and the security steps that the IDF is taking in the security zone. Sources confirmed to our correspondent that in the last month, Hizballah has substantially reduced its operations against the security zone and Israel.

Gaza Political Committee Banned; Activist Arrested

TA0201180492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] The Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip has informed the heads of the local political committee that its activity is illegal. The three notables—Attorney Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban, As'ad al-Saftawi, and Faris Hassuna—who lead the political committee recently established in the Gaza Strip, were summoned to the Civil Administration offices and warned not to participate in the committee's activity.

Our correspondent Moti Amir added that early this morning the security forces arrested one of the committee's members, a resident of the Gaza Strip and a former security detainee. He was interrogated about the terrorist attack at the Dayr al-Balah intersection last night.

Delegation To Leave for Washington as Scheduled

JN0301111392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Washington talks, said in Amman that the delegation will leave Jordan for Washington at dawn tomorrow [4 January] as scheduled, that no change has taken place with regard to its departure, and that it will not wait for the Palestinian delegation, which decided to postpone its departure for Washington to protest the Israeli authorities' decision to deport 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

PLO's Qaddumi Meets Prime Minister, Comments

JN0201171092 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Amman, 2 Jan (PETRA)—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir today received PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Qaddumi said: The talks with our Jordanian brothers are something normal, and they aim at continuing coordination and cooperation, particularly on the peace process.

He added that it is noted that Israel is adopting intransigent stances and is trying to waste time with procedural issues. He stressed the need to extend an invitation to the PLO to attend the multilateral negotiations, which will be held at the end of this month, and said this should take place after progress is realized in the bilateral negotiations.

Regarding the possibility of holding the multilateral talks in Moscow, he said: We do not oppose holding these meetings in Moscow, because the Russian people are friendly people, and we are keen on building relations with the independent states that resulted from the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

He said that there are technical issues that may obstruct the meeting, but if the negotiations are moved to another country we are ready to attend them, but first there should be coordination among the Arab delegations to eliminate some of our fears.

He added that we prefer holding a meeting for coordination at the level of the Arab foreign ministers before convening the multilateral negotiations, because the negotiations are very important and they will tackle all issues relating to the region, therefore, there should be an Arab consensus and joint coordination.

When asked about the U.S. position, he said the United States should work in accordance with what U.S. President George Bush has said about land for peace, because Israel should withdraw from the occupied territories.

He pointed out that there is no need for suspending the dialogue with the PLO, and the United States should restore the dialogue because this is both an Arab and international demand.

He added that he will visit Syria for coordination talks, saying: We are keen to coordinate between the PLO and the Arab brothers, because restoring joint action and Arab solidarity is a holy cause to which we are very much devoted.

Justice Minister Meets Iraqi Counterpart

JN3112153491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Text] Amman, 31 Dec (INA)—Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki met here today with Jordanian Justice Minister Yusuf al-Mubayyidin. During their meeting, the two ministers discussed ways to reinforce cooperation between the justice ministries of the two sisterly countries in the fields of judiciary affairs and legislation. They also discussed the importance of exchanging expertise and visits between officials in the judiciary and justice departments. In addition, they reviewed the unified draft laws prepared by the Arab League.

Al-Maliki also met with Jordanian Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul. During their meeting, the two ministers discussed opinions and proposals related to the agenda for the Arab interior ministers conference scheduled to begin in Tunis on Friday. They also discussed guarantees to protect pan-Arab security, as well as ways to combat crime and to facilitate the movement of Arab citizens within the framework of Arab solidarity.

Shabib al-Maliki arrived here yesterday en route to Tunisia where he will represent Iraq at the meetings of Arab interior ministers.

Invitation to Washington Peace Talks Received

NC0201132692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz was informed by Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, that Lebanon has been invited to attend the third round of peace negotiations to be held in Washington on 7 January. The ambassador said this during a telephone conversation with Buwayz last night. A written invitation was sent this morning.

Palestinian Groups Reject 'Capitulationist Plans'

NC0201132292 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] A statement was circulated in Beirut yesterday on the fourth anniversary of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories. It bore the signatures of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas); the Palestinian National Liberation Movement—Fatah; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—PFLP; Fatah—the Revolutionary Council; the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; the Popular Liberation War Vanguards—al-Sa'iqah; the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party; the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; Hizballah Palestine; and the Palestinian Liberation Front.

The statement noted the heightened U.S.-Zionist onslaught that seeks to eliminate the Palestinian cause, which is the leading central cause of Arab and Islamic nations, and force our nation to capitulate and submit to recognizing the racist Zionist entity as a prelude to the implementation of the so-called greater Israel scheme. The statement said that what happened during the conference of elimination and selling out Palestine and Jerusalem, whether in Madrid or Washington, and what is yet to follow confirm the collapse of the logic of defeat, capitulation, and deceit that has been practiced for years under weak claims and justifications. This logic led to the abandonment of the cause, the people, history, doctrine, and territories. The statement emphasized the following:

1. We absolutely reject all the proposed capitulationist plans, which are not binding on our people or nation, and shall endeavor to foil and undermine them through all means.

2. We call on those Palestinians who, by falsification and deception, took part in those meetings to abandon this conspiracy and return to the trenches of resistance and the masses.

3. We emphasize the unity of the Palestinian people and condemn any attempt to strike at this unity. We call upon all national and Islamic forces to consolidate their unity and continue their struggle to foil the conspiracy.

4. We stress the continuation of the political, economic, and cultural boycott of the Zionist enemy to safeguard our Arab and Islamic nation from this cancer.

5. We condemn the U.S. stand that forced the abrogation of the UN resolution equating Zionism and racism and affirm that repealing this resolution does not change the fact that Zionism is racist.

6. The need to escalate armed struggle inside and outside [the territories] to go hand in hand with the blessed intifadah.

7. Confronting the enemies of our Arab and Islamic nations requires further coordination and cooperation among all the national and Islamic forces, factions, and regimes that oppose the policy of elimination and surrender.

8. We demand that the Arab regimes not pressure the Palestinian masses residing in their territories and preserve the Palestinians' dignity, employment, and residence.

9. The condemnation of the imperialist pressures against the forces and countries that support and back the peoples' struggle and jihad, as in the case of the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

10. We reject and condemn the emigration of invading settlers to the land of Palestine and will use all means to stop it.

11. We stress the unity of the national, nationalist, and Islamic forces to confront their enemies.

Minister Comments on Beirut Airport Security

NC3112135091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Shawqi Fakhuri, minister of state for land, sea, and air transport, has spoken about the current state of Beirut Airport. He commented on the U.S. statement on yesterday's bombing in Beirut.

Darwish 'Ammar, our correspondent at the airport reports:

[Begin recording] ['Ammar] Minister Fakhuri, we are meeting you at Beirut International Airport, which you are now inspecting. We notice that a U.S. State Department statement yesterday mentioned the airport. What is your comment?

[Fakhuri] I do not really know the motives that led to these suspicions about the security measures in Beirut, when the actual situation definitely proves that the security situation at Beirut Airport is more than excellent. The biggest proof is that 20 foreign airlines, including Western ones, have resumed their flights to Lebanon after making sure that the security situation here is good. [passage omitted]

['Ammar] Mr. Minister, I have a question about the U.S. State Department's remarks. The statement did not merely refer to Beirut International Airport, but linked the general

security situation with yesterday's al-Bastah bombing. It advises U.S. citizens not to travel to Lebanon. What is your comment?

[Fakhuri] I believe this stand is unjustified, because the process of peace and reconciliation is doubtlessly continuing as the cabinet and many other officials noted yesterday. No obstacle will hinder this process. Those people who stand to lose when this process is consolidated certainly are responsible for what happened. They, of course, try to undermine or create gaps in every security process and undermine the return of peace after 16 years of destructive war. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Arab Support, Solidarity for Negotiators Urged

JN0201173292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As the entire world was celebrating the arrival of the new year and looking forward to further peace, stability, and development, Israel's rulers were imposing a curfew on our people in the occupied homeland, besieging the Palestinian towns and camps with a great number of troops, studying means to expand existing settlements and build new ones, and taking measures to set up an auxiliary army of settlers with the task of spreading terror, committing massacres, and forcing Arab citizens to a mass exodus from their homes. The last few days have seen examples of the settlers' terrorism when they organized armed campaigns and began to open fire on Arab quarters; set fire to stores, houses, and cars; and block roads and prevent our people from moving around freely.

We are not departing from the truth when we say that Israel is the only one which does not want peace. Rather, it devotes all its efforts and the tools of pressure it has to torpedo the peace process for which the world community is calling. The main concern for Israel's rulers was to encircle the Madrid conference and make it depart from its course and to foil the Washington talks last month. The peace talks scheduled for 7 January are not expected to achieve the desired progress in view of the continued Israeli intransigence and the course of expansion and settlement which Shamir's government is following. The enemy's entity has witnessed a debate over the budget which ended up in approving additional financial allocations to build settlements.

It has become known to everyone that Israel has to choose between peace and settlement activities, and the tension and explosion that accompany these activities. All signs indicate that Shamir's government is only interested in settlement activities and is planning to consume all of the occupied territories, expel its Arab owners, and settle Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, currently the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. Ari'el Sharon has revealed a major plan to absorb two million Jewish immigrants and establish an airlift from the republics of the CIS for that exact purpose.

Naturally, these plans for expansion and settlement contravene the will for peace and indicate that the Washington talks will not result in anything new. But still, the Arabs are determined to go on with these talks and expose Israel's expansionist and aggressive nature and its chronic hostility toward peace. Meanwhile, the Arabs hope to make the world face its responsibility, especially since the United States has committed itself to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. It is now required to translate its commitment into a tangible act on the ground.

Today, the world is more unanimous than ever in its efforts to bring about this just settlement, bring an end to coercion and injustice against the Palestinian people, and end Israel's occupation of Arab territories. World credibility will lose its very foundation if the hand of justice fails to reach the Middle East, punishing the aggressor, supporting the aggressed upon, and upholding the resolutions of global legitimacy.

However, we, as Arabs, should ask ourselves at the beginning of the new year: What have we done, and what are we going to do so that 1992 may be the year of the just and comprehensive peace to which we aspire?

Putting the world community before its responsibility does not exempt the Arabs from their own responsibilities. The Arabs need to demonstrate actual solidarity, and to translate this into close fraternal ties and readiness to sacrifice for and support those who are leading the confrontation with Israel, and who, in the name of the nation, are waging the historic struggle against it. The Arabs need to rally firmly and sincerely around the positions of those who sacrificed and are sacrificing the blood of their sons to defend Arab existence against the Zionist onslaught.

Everybody knows that Syria, the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and the Jordanians are waging the battle of peace. The more united the positions are, and the stronger the Arabs rally around these positions and adhere to their rights, lands, and sanctities, the stronger the Arabs become in their quest to wrest rights and lands and speed up the talks and reap the desired fruits.

The Arab responsibility does not stop at the point of urging the world community to implement Security Council resolutions. Rather, it is represented, and will be represented by supporting the firm Syrian position—which rejects any relinquishment or bargaining—because it translates the nation's will, hopes, and ambitions.

Radio Commentary Views Israel's Plans, 1992

JN3112162391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As the world looks forward to a new year of peace, stability, and confidence, a year during which those nations still under occupation will regain their right to self-determination, Israel's rulers have proved to the whole world their hateful racism and sinful hostility by spreading death, destruction, and terrorism throughout the occupied Arab territories and in fraternal Lebanon.

In the occupied Arab territories, mad herds of settlers are spreading destruction by organizing armed campaigns against our steadfast, resistant people. They burn houses and cars, open fire on every living creature, create an atmosphere of terrorism and panic in the West Bank,

Gaza, and Jerusalem, and threaten to commit massacres if the intifadah does not stop and the Arabs do not leave their houses to the Jewish immigrants.

In Beirut, Mossad agents detonated a car bomb in a populous area, killing or wounding hundreds of people. They would have carried out the same operation in the coastal city of Juniyah were it not for the fact that the criminal explosive charge was discovered and defused. Israel has not forgiven the Lebanese people for deciding to end the bloody dispute that was about to destroy their country and to restore love and cooperation within the framework of a firm national accord and radical reforms.

Israel's rulers were shocked by the progress achieved by the Lebanese people and by the restoration of security and stability in their country. They were also shocked when the Lebanese state restored its health and its role in both the Arab and the international arenas, as well as when the Lebanese called at the Madrid conference and the Washington talks for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 425. By once again resorting to car bombs, they believe that they can harm the march of accord and salvation and reopen the wounds. On the contrary, they will only reap disappointment and curses, given that all of the factions in Lebanon are determined to strengthen their accord and to devote their efforts to the liberation of the south and to the promotion of their Arab relations, especially with Syria.

The honest Arabs have responded to U.S. peace endeavors, and they expect the United States to continue its efforts and to fulfill its promise to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the principle of land for peace and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. If the international community moves forcefully and determinedly and if it imposes its resolutions, then nothing will prevent 1992 from being a year of peace in the Middle East. In fact, moves by the international community are a persistent need. All countries throughout the world have gained the right to self-determination. It is illogical to deprive the Palestinians of that right, to expose them to the ugliest and most serious forms of repression and injustice, and to allow the Zionist settlers to threaten their homeland, land, fate, and future.

As racial discrimination is being banished from the world, even from South Africa, it is illogical for the Zionists to extensively practice such hateful racism, to challenge international legitimacy, to violate international principles and charters, and to reject a just peace in the Middle East. Despite all efforts, Israel's rulers insist on escalating settlement in the occupied territories and on foiling the Madrid conference and the Washington talks. They are now trying to avoid the 7 January talks and are asking for their postponement in order to undermine the entire peace process.

The international community is required to use all of its weight to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories; to secure the Palestinian people's right to freedom, dignity, and self-determination; and to work out a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict that will allow the region's countries to utilize their resources for development, construction, and creativity. In light of this, 1992 should be a year of just peace in the Middle East. The international community, led by the United States, is able to make such a just peace. The international community is also committed to achieving this peace, and its credibility depends on converting that commitment into reality. Israel receives aid from the United States. It will think twice if this aid is cut and if it becomes the black sheep of the international community.

Achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will reinforce world peace and will be a gain for all of humanity. Will the year 1992 be a year of peace?

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Urge Yeltsin To Improve Relations

BK2612105991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 26 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance Thursday called on Russian President Boris Yeltsin to avoid the cruelty and treachery of the Soviet Union in its relations with Afghanistan.

In a reaction to the transfer of power from Mikhail Gorbachev to Yeltsin Burhanuddin Rabbani, one of the guerrillas' main leaders, said, "at the beginning of our holy war we stated that Afghanistan would be the cemetery of communism. Today, this is the reality."

"For years, Soviet Russia lied to the world" after its "bloody invasion" of Afghanistan in 1979, he told reporters in Islamabad.

"I call on Yeltsin, the champion of liberty and democracy, to ensure that Russia and the so-called Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) avoid inheriting the cruelties of the pas[illegible]," he said.

Rabbani, chief of the moderate fundamentalist Jam'iyat-e Eslami, also announced the release of three prisoners from Uzbekistan who had served in the Soviet Army and been captured during the near 10-year Soviet occupation.

He said he expected the Moscow-backed Kabul government to release 90 mojahedin in exchange and that the three men would be handed over to a joint CIS-Afghan commission due to formed soon. If there was any delay, the men would be returned to their relations, he added.

Rabbani also accused Russia of not respecting agreements reached in November when he visited Moscow with a mojahedin delegation.

He said he was astonished at the publication in Kabul this week of a joint statement at the end of the visit of Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoy who had previously held talks with the Afghan guerrillas in Pakistan.

The statement violated previous arrangements, Rabbani said, adding that arms and military vehicles had been dispatched to Afghanistan only two days ago from Uzbekistan, in violation of the decision of Moscow and the CIS to cease all deliveries of military materials and fuel from December 15.

All former Soviet personnel must be recalled from Kabul or else they would be treated as criminals by the mojahedin, he said. "We still haven't got rid of our arms and we have the means to finish off Kabul," he said.

Talks with between Rutskoy and the Afghan guerrillas held December 21 in Islamabad had ended in stalemate.

The Russian vice president had expected the mojahedin would free a first group of prisoners of war during his visit, but eventually departed with just one man from Turkmenistan who the Russian delegation then declared in Kabul to be a "fake" prisoner.

Rutskoy also announced that Russia was ready to offer economic and technological assistance to Kabul, which angered the resistance.

The mojahedin pointed out that the joint declaration agreed mid-November in Moscow included a clause on the necessity of transferring power to an interim Islamic government in Kabul.

'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf Escapes Assassination

BK2612154091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1529 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Dec 26 (AFP)—An important Afghan fundamentalist leader escaped a murder attempt when unidentified assailants ambushed his vehicle killing four others, resistance sources said Thursday.

Rasul Sayyaf escaped because he had transfered to another vehicle shortly before the attack, but Hafizul Haq, who commands eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province along with his deputy Azizollah Azimi and two other commanders died when their vehicle came [under] fire late Wednesday, the sources said.

A fifth passenger, also a resistance officer, was seriously injured but reportedly out of danger.

A spokesman for Sayyaf's Etehad-e Eslamli said the attack took place near the Khyber Pass as party leaders and senior members were returning from Afghanistan.

Sayyaf crossed the border earlier in the day to distribute "certificates" to members of his party who had completed their military training and to chair a meeting of party leaders to discuss strategy to capture Nangarhar's provincial capital Jalalabad, he said.

On his way back Sayyaf changed vehicles and drove through the ambush site "only 10 minutes" before the attack, the spokesman said.

He added a jeep had followed the target vehicle from the border and forced it to stop whereupon the gunmen in ambush opened fire killing the four commanders.

The party stressed the attackers had targetted Sayyaf, but gave no reason.

The pro-Saudi leader Sayyaf along with another fundamentalist leader, Yunes Khales, had boycotted negotiations aimed at reaching a political solution to the 13-year old war in Afghanistan.

The two had also refused to meet Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoy here last week, insisting on removal of Najibollah's government in Kabul and opposing talks with Moscow.

Mojahedin Kill 35 in Eslam Qal'eh, Herat Attacks

LD0201175192 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1615 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] Afghan mojahedin have attacked several military positions belonging to Kabul regime in Eslam Qal'eh and Herat, killing 35 soldiers and taking a large number of weapons. Afghan mojahedin also launched an assault on Herat airport and destroyed two aircraft belonging to Najib's regime.

Meanwhile Najibollah, head of Kabul's regime, has stated that talks will be held with the mojahedin if they stopped the war.

Opposition Holds Conference in Hamburg

NC2312120091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] At the initiative of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, a two-day conference was held in Hamburg which addressed Afghanistan's political problems and the situation of Afghan Muslims. Our correspondent reports from Bonn:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] During this conference, which was attended by more than 200 Afghan political, religious, and scientific figures living in various European countries, speakers discussed recent world developments and their impact on the region, especially Afghanistan.

During the conference, which a representative of our Foreign Ministry also attended, speakers pointed to the key role of Islam in the religious jihad of the Muslim Afghans and emphasized the need to continue the struggle and consolidate all ranks until there is an Islamic government in Afghanistan, which is what the Afghan Muslims seek.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's role in supporting the Afghan Muslims' jihad and the Iranian people's generous assistance to the oppressed Afghan nation were lauded.

Part of the conference's final communique, which was approved by the participants with shouts of God is great, stated: Under these sensitive conditions, the Muslim people of Afghanistan must join hands and exert more coordinated and unified efforts to remove obstacles and solve problems. The communique also rules out the Kabul regime's participation in determining Afghanistan's fate. [end recording]

India

Spokesman on Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's Visit

BK3112155791 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1539 GMT 31 Dec 91

[Spokesman's statement on the visit of the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Harold Herath, dated 30th Dec 1991—ISI subhead]

[Text] While briefing newsmen, the spokesman said that Mr. Harold Herath, Sri Lankan foreign minister, will be visiting Delhi from 5-7 Jan, 1992, for the meeting of the first session of the Indo-Sri Lanka joint commission. Mr. Herath will be accompanied by the Sri Lankan foreign secretary; trade and commerce secretary, Mr. R.A.P. Goonatileke; and other senior officials. The spokesman made a reference to Mr. Herath's visit to India in July 1991, when an agreement was arrived at to set up a joint commission. It was also decided at that time that the joint commission will be headed by the two foreign ministers; and also that there would be initially two sub-commissions: one dealing with trade, investment and finance; and the other with cultural, social and educational matters. It was also decided, during the same meeting, that the sub-commissions would meet before the meeting of the joint commission and the joint commission itself would meet before the end of the year.

Both sub-commissions met in Colombo in Oct 1991. Sub-commissions on trade has engaged in extensive discussions on measures for liberalisation and expansion of trade and investment; whereas the sub-commission on culture, social and educational matter has finalised a cultural exchange programme between the two countries for the year 1992, 1993, 1994.

The spokesman clarified that the dates for the forthcoming joint commission meeting were proposed by us to the Sri Lankan side in November 1991 and India was informed earlier this month that the dates are acceptable.

The spokesman elaborated that since this would be the first meeting of the joint commission, it is expected that the joint commission will review all the work done by the sub-commissin; and will explore additional possibilities for strengthening bilateral ties in the field of trade, investment, finance, culture, education, tourism and other sectors.

Nuclear Submarine To Be Launched Within Decade

BK2412122791 Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] India's first indigenously built nuclear propelled submarine is likely to be launched within a decade, reports UNI [United News of India].

The project to build such a submarine is presently under way. India has already acquired the drawings for the hull of the proposed submarine and it was part of this process that India acquired a Charlie I class vessel, INS [Indian naval Ship] Chakra, on lease from the Soviet Union for a period of three years, according to the forthcoming issue of the Frontline magazine.

INS Chakra, whose lease expired on January 1, 1991, was acquired with the basic idea to use a leased vessel til one was constructed here.

The magazine says that scientists and technologists of various shipyards, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Department of Atomic Energy and the Indian Navy and the private sector are seeking to match a hull built to a Soviet design on a small nuclear reactor of Indian design. The Defence Ministry had launched the advanced technology vessel (AVT) programme in 1984-85 focussing on the building of a nuclear propelled submarine.

The major work on the hull has yet to begin and the keel is yet to be laid because of delays on account of the reactor design, the Frontline says.

Quoting a physicist, the magazine says fitting a reactor on to a hull is a sophisticated job and even more complicated and interesting is the task of designing the containment structures of a small submarine reactor. In the case of ATV, there have been difficulties in fitting the Indian design on to the Charlie I hull. As it would be foolish to tamper with the given designs, the Indian effort had been to make the reactor of the required size and shape.

The Indian ATV, while superficially resembling Charlie I, would be more sophisticated in terms of construction, engines, sensors and armaments. Notwithstanding its design vintage, it would be a powerful addition to the Indian naval fleet.

India has now attained considerable expertise in the area of small reactor design. According to reports, the reactor for the ATV will be for the PWR [expansion Unknown] type using uranium enriched to 209 per cent for the purpose. No details of the size are available, but it is known that French submarine of rubis type which has a displacement of 2,670 tonnes uses a 48mw reactor of liquid metal cooling design. Earlier attempts were made to miniaturise reactors of the Kalpakkam type but that proved unsatisfactory. Now India has uranium enrichment facilities which can supply the fuel needed for such vessels.

Frontline says the Indian nuclear propelled vessel programme is well funded.

Soviet Su-27 Plane 'Offered' to Delhi

BK2512143191 Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Dec 91 p 5

[Text] The Soviets have unveiled their latest fighter aircraft SU-27 by giving flight demonstrations to Indian Air Force [IAF] fighter pilots at the Hindon Air base near Capital, reports UNI [United News of India].

The Soviets have flown in two aircraft—a fighter version of the SU-27 and another a two-seat trainer.

Acclaimed by western military experts as one of the world's most advanced fighter, the SU-27, NATO code-named 'Flanker', has been offered to India as an outright purchase or for manufacture under licence.

According to aviation experts since India's area of operation is increasing, the SU-27, which has been designed for long range interception missions, would meet IAF's future requirements.

The Soviets had intended to bring the SU-27 to India from the international air show in Singapore a few months ago but could not do so at that time.

Military experts say that China has recently acquired half a squadron of the SU-27 from the Soviet Union and this would give the Chinese better logistic support than in the past.

Analysing the implications of deliveries of the fighter to China, military experts say that there is danger of this technology being passed on to Pakistan at a later date. In that case the Pakistan air force could have any target anywhere in India within its striking range.

China Aero Technology Import Export Corporation (CATIC) is known for its innovative ways in developing fighter aircraft. Having developed A-5 and F-6 from the Russian MiG-19 and F-7 from MiG-21, with SU-27 technology China will be at par with any western country in this field.

The SU-27 has stunned the entire NATO aviation circle with its superior flying performance, that is extreme manoeuvability, very long, low level range and fire power. With the latest in air- launched weapons and associated avionics, coupled with the required delivery systems, the SU-27 is the most sought after aircraft in the western and eastern bloc aviation world.

The superior design feature of SU-27 like the blended wing with the body, centrally mounted engine, gives this aircraft a nearly 10,000 kg internal fuel capacity. This is 40 per cent more than any fighter from the western fighter stables. This was proved by its non-stop flight from Moscow to the last Paris air show on internal fuel only. The centrally mounted engine enable the SU-27 to undertake high angle of attack profile manoeuvers.

The SU-27 has a thrust to weight ratio of 1:3:1, and according to Mr Mikhail Simrov, director of Sukkoi design bureau, SU-27 has a 4 channel analogue flight control system and the fly by wire is use only as aid and not as a main control.

Equipped with perhaps the best cockpit radar, SU-27 can carry a mix of 10 air-to-air missiles (semi-active and IR). The aircrft cockpit is incorporated with a radar/missile system which is an infra-red search track laser range finder. The pilot uses the helmet mounted sight which works in conjuntion with the entire radar/missile system.

Cobra manoeuvres, or the high alpha flying performance of Su-27 has more far-reaching tactical implications than apparent to a casual observer.

Military experts feel that the Chinese would not only manufacture this aircraft but further modernise and modify it in future.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Military Units

LD0201140892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1058 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Address by 'Ali Hoseyni Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to units of the Iranian Navy, Army, Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and Air Force at the "2d Zone of the Bushehr Naval Forces" in Bushehr on 2 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We thank the great God for all his blessings and unlimited kindness, especially for his kindness especially directed to our Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

I feel that our Armed Forces here are busy serving at a place with a morale which befits the characteristics of the region. It is a sensitive region. It has many lessons to teach us due to its historical experiences. This region at one time, like other regions of the Persian Gulf, used to be the arena for shows of force by the occupationists and power seekers who did not care for the dignity and independence and value of nations.

History bears witness to the fact that English forces landed on this spot in Bushehr to pressure the government of the time in Iran. They occupied this resource-rich and strategically sensitive coast and held sway.

Unfortunately, that same trend continued over long periods, although in different forms and sometimes not so directly.

Today as the forces stationed on this coastline, you shoulder the task of guarding the security of these coasts. As such, you serve in this region enjoying independence, relying on your own forces from within, and supported by your own nation, not relying on any other power.

That was not the case in the past. This was not seen in this form, not even in the immediate past, that is, before the victory of the revolution.

You must appreciate and value the independence and the self-reliance of proud people. All of you feel this, thanks to the Islamic revolution and the greatness of Islam. Today our Armed Forces, wherever they are and to whatever organization they belong, feel that they do not rely on any foreign power in any way. They feel that they have chosen no other power to rely on but their own inherent power and their own national power, supported by their ideological faith. That is something to be proud of.

To our people and Armed Forces, those forces unlawfully present in some parts of the Persian Gulf are phenomena that will disappear sooner or later. The Persian Gulf belongs to the nations in it. The security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of peoples living around this internationally important region. The long shores of the Islamic Republic of Iran undoubtedly play an extremely important part in the security of the region. God willing, we will perform this role. That is our historic, geographic and regional duty.

With the increasing preparedness that you, the Armed Forces, have achieved, with God's blessings, you could be the representatives of the Iranian nation. You enjoy the support of the nation and, by the same token, the nation looks on you, her children, as the defenders of her honor, integrity and reputation.

The preparedness of the Armed Forces is extremely important. Our Naval forces in this region are, thank God, doing their part very well and are united, compared to the past. Your cooperation and solidarity should increase daily. You should be two organizations with one spirit and one goal. That is, one spirit in two bodies.

The bodies should not be mixed, but the spirits should get closer every day. There should be a high level of cooperation, unity and, God willing, coordination. This is a very important opportunity for the two navies.

I strongly recommend repairs and maintenance. That is a very important duty for you today. This is an opportunity to rebuild the equipment and facilities. This should be done industriously and with innovation, as expected of determined, resolute and revolutionary people like you. Find and take shortcuts. All the Armed Forces all over the country should consider the reconstruction of equipment and repairs and maintenance as a very necessary and not to be forgotten task.

We have potential. This potential should blossom in the Armed Forces, including this vitally important sector. Today, thank God, with the status the Islamic Republic enjoys in the world, we are able to provide for our needs from most parts of the world. On that score, the difficulties of the past no longer exist in the same form, and in some areas there are no difficulties at all. However, despite that, one should rely more on oneself, on one's initiative, one's wealth, the strength of one's talented hands and one's own active and innovative mind.

That must be regarded as a general order. You must base your planning on that. Along with that comes maintenance and the reconstruction of the human forces—the use of the springs of talents everywhere. That tops every other task. [passage omitted]

You, the Armed Forces and the entire Iranian nation have come out of the first trial quite well. In the second trial, that is the reconstruction stage, you must exhibit the same degree of power in all parts of the country and anywhere a proud member of the Iranian people lives.

During the sacred defense, the entire nation joined hands and pooled resources, led by the Armed Forces, that is, the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and the vast ocean of popular mobilization forces.

You, the Armed Forces and the nation, created so much glory in different arenas that the attention of the entire

world was on you. Today we are witnessing the results of this universal attention and admiration, as much as in previous years and perhaps even more.

The Armed Forces should participate in reconstruction, both in the inner reconstruction of the Armed Forces in the form of jihad, of Basij and as revolutionaries—without expecting that all their normal needs, as are required by ordinary people before they perform tasks, will be met—with ecstasy and love, burning from the enthusiasm of initiative and creativity and without complaining about any shortages, with empty hands if necessary. If reconstruction relies on love, creativity, enthusiasm and the initiative of people it will bear fruit in spite of any shortages. And God be thanked, we lack nothing. We are not lacking in enthusiasm or in the desire to see talents flourishing.

Outside the Armed Forces, the Army and the Corps can fulfill their share of the role in the general reconstruction of the country in the same way that today both organizations, especially the Guards Corps, have taken on and are participating in big reconstruction projects in the country.

Our dear people should feel that the Armed Forces can be pioneers and vanguards not only in the period of war but also in that of reconstruction. Of course, the first question with regard to the Armed Forces is the preservation of combat preparedness and greater concentration on training, dicipline, different kinds of capabilities and rennovation, in the organization of the Armed Forces and then all over the country. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Minister on Nation's Strategic Importance

BK0301093092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Khan Kanjoo has said Pakistan's strategic importance has increased with the end of the Soviet Union as a superpower. Speaking to newsmen in Multan yesterday, he said Pakistan is the only route for commercial contacts with the Central Asian States and Karachi is the nearest port for them.

Referring to the Kashmir problem, he said the global situation is rapidly changing and hence the Kashmir issue should be resolved in order to enable Pakistan and India to live like good neighbors. He said a solution to the Kashmir issue will be eventually based on UN resolutions, as it can only be solved through a free plebiscite to the Kashmiris.

On the Afghanistan issue, the minister said Pakistan will soon hold talks with all the mojahedin groups, Iran, and other parties concerned so as to establish an interim Islamic government in Kabul.

In reply to a question, he said Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will visit France from the 12th of this month.

Government Denies Purchasing Russian Tanks

LD3012181691 Hamburg DPA in German 1705 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Hamburg/Islamabad (DPA)—The Government of Pakistan today denied a BILD report that it has bought several thousand T-72 tanks from the Soviet garrisons in the new federal states from the Russian Government. [passage omitted]

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad said today that the newspaper report lacks any foundation. [passage omitted]

Official Notes Efforts to Resolve Afghan Problem

BK0101081692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] The secretary general of foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, has said Pakistan is making determined efforts to associate itself with all the processes, including negative symmetry, to facilitate a political settlement of the Afghanistan question. In an interview with the BBC, he said our primary interest is restoration of peace so that 3.5 million refugees living in Pakistan would be able to return to their country in peace and honor. We want cooperation of the international community for a program of repatriation and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees. He said restoring peace in Afghanistan is not only in the interest of the Afghan people but also in the interest of the whole region.

Janjua Says Army 'Not Interested in Politics'

BK2412111591 Lahore THE NATION in English 20 Dec 91 pp 1,4

[By Staff correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad—Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Asif Nawaz Janjua said here on Thursday [19 December] that witnessing President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament in the morning was a "good education (in politics) for a hard-core soldier like me."

The General was mobbed by the newsmen when he was having tea in the lawns in between the Parliament and Presidency. He avoided them. But BBC correspondent, Liz, could convince him to say something regarding his recent visit to the UK.

"It ws excellent but I am happy to be back in my beautiful country, Pakistan," he commented.

"It is believed that Army was investigating into the Veena [Hayat rape] affair", a question was shot at him. The General denied the impression, wondering that why the Army should be doing so.

He was told that people think that an FIR [First Information Report] regarding Veena affair could only be registered after his intervention. "I was abroad for the past two weeks", he pointed out.

Later on, a reporter told him that perhaps the Army had to use its influence for getting the FIR registered, for Veena is reported to be a close relative of CGS [Chief of General Staff. Lt. Gen. Farrukh Khan. "Do not personalise the affairs", he said firmly. "The Army is a well-disciplined institution and it acts like that", he added.

When Gen Asif Nawaz was talking to the Press the tear-gas began having its effect on people standing in the lawns. His nose and eyes also began running. But the "simple soldier" seemed to have rather enjoyed it when asked that "how does it taste."

The General, who happens to be a close friend of [National Assembly Speaker] Gauhar Ayub, was expected in Speaker's chambers. He was provided with a wet tissue to ease the sting of itching gas and the whole mob of newsmen followed him for a long walk to Gauhar's room with ticklish and provocative questions. He, however, kept playing, with case, a man of authority. The General appeared to be a man familiar with the game of mocking the juniors with soldierly humour.

When asked whether happenings during the joint sitting were not a bad omen for the future of democracy in Pakistan, he said: "I do not know whether things happened in the morning should not take place in a paliament. May be it was a part of political traditions. Or, maybe is was not. But whatever took place educated me. I cannot comment on it. But on my end, things are perfect."

Again told that people were apprehensive that things, as happened in the morning, could be dangerous to such a fragile democratic struture as of Pakistan.

"You think so", he asked, When responded in affirmative he suggested that" do write whatever you feel about the events of today."

He was told that even Opposition was spreading the impression that Army was contemplating a takeover. "Have a heart yar" [my friend], he said with simple innocence.

"Armed forces of Pakistan are not interested in politics", he insisted.

"But they took over in the past", he was reminded.

"Haven't things changed", he asked in return.

"You seem to be totally apolitical as compared with your predecessors", he was told.

He was uneasy to an extent when told this. "Do not talk of predecessors. We must take of the present and tomorrow."

A reporter told him that Bhutto had once said that there were only two political parties in Pakistan, Army and PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. "I am not familiar with such comments", he claimed.

The General has to insist again and again that the Army or its agencies were not probing into the Veena case.

He was told that Prime Minister asked the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] to interrogate. But the General again reminded that he was abroad for the past two weeks.

"It means you are not bothered whatever is going on in the country", a colleague asked him. "My friend, I am a Pakistani-like you. I am a part of this society", he replied gravely. But to ease things he added: "I am also aware what you chaps have been doing."

Speaker Gauhar and Sardar Assef were thoroughly amused with his apt handing of the media. Close to his taking to the 'retiring room' for a cup of tea walked in the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Nicholas Platt. It could yet not be confirmed whether the Ambassador joined the General in tea.